

# Governor's Task Force on Mental Health

## SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED JULY 19, 2016 – AUGUST 8, 2016

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The Governor's Task Force on Mental Health received comments from several stakeholders between July 19, 2016 and August 8, 2016. Those can be summarized as follows:

- Mental health challenges that can accompany aging are a public health crisis.
- Minnesota's mental health system focuses on crises rather than on prevention and early intervention.
- We need to build a full array of mental health services across Minnesota and ensure that those services:
  - Are culturally responsive
  - Are person-centered and family-centered, including respecting the right to age with dignity and autonomy
  - Allow for choice in the manner and location of service delivery
  - Are integrated across sectors
  - Are clear regarding the roles of individuals and community providers
- We need oversight structures that can implement these change within the mental health system.
- Local police departments are forced to spend time transporting people in mental health crisis to far-away treatment locations, and sometimes need to wait with them in emergency departments for long hours. Small police departments are not staffed or funded to fulfill this function.
- Minnesota needs more crisis and inpatient psychiatric beds in local communities.
- Minnesota should amend its Medicaid State Plan to include reimbursement for cultural advisors in order to fully integrate culture and language into mental health treatment.
- More housing and transportation resources are needed to support people in recovery.
- There should be special set-asides for tribal programs and communities to support professional staffing and facilities.