

Regional Concerns

SUPPORT legislation addressing regional solutions for adolescent/teen housing facilities across the spectrum



We need a regional approach to support the unique needs of our most complex young people including placement options for:

- High Acuity-most intensive behaviors (e.g. highly aggressive, sexually acting out) in need of immediate treatment support and not housed in Emergency Rooms or County offices.
- Secure Detention: Locked facilities to provide short-term safety, accountability and support for teens charged with the most serious crimes.
- Non-secure: Unlocked facilities designed to provide safety, accountability and support to young people in the juvenile justice or child welfare system.



Scott County Juvenile Alternative Facility (JAF) needs necessary upgrades:

- JAF requires hundreds of thousands of dollars of repairs.
- Relocation of the facility would improve workforce and operations.
- We need a juvenile facility in the area that serves the region.

JAF CAPITAL INVESTMENT NEEDS:

- **\$1.2M of deferred maintenance needs over the next 10 years**
- **\$1.0M to \$1.6M of additions/remodeling to address programmatic deficiencies**

When you connect to the heart of a child, everything is possible.
~Dr. Karyn Purvis

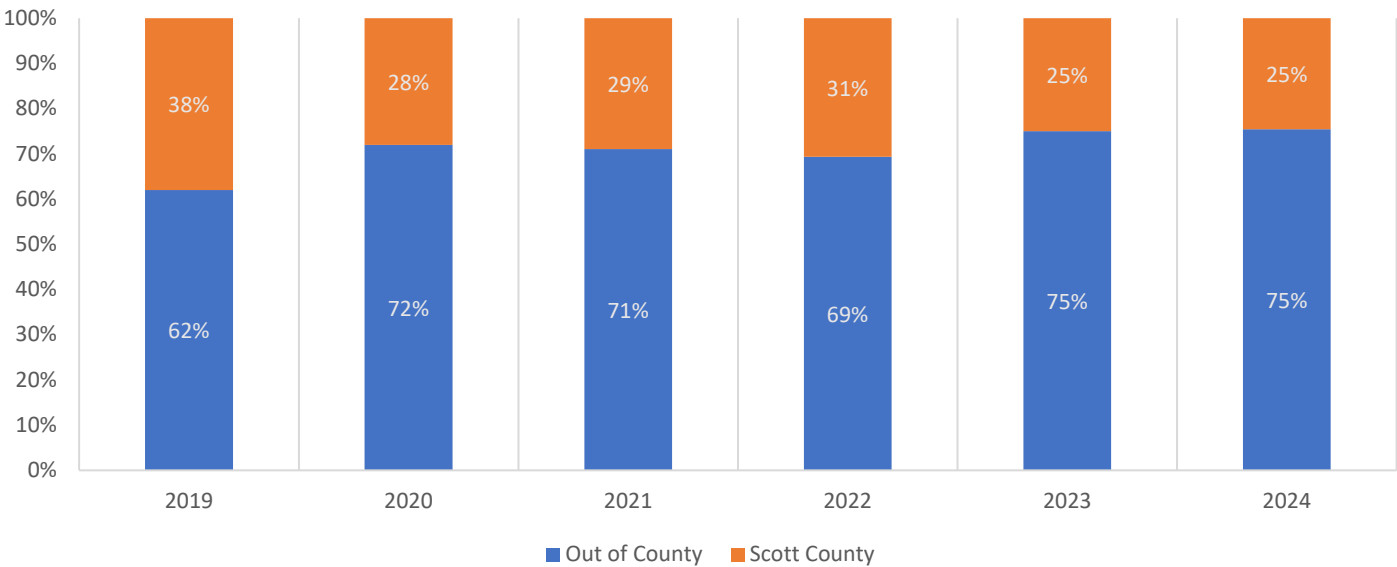
Regional Concerns

SUPPORT legislation addressing regional solutions for adolescents/teen housing facilities across the spectrum



Scott County, through the JAF, has increasingly been serving the need for a non-secure facility for children for the region. It is in need of repairs and/or a new location. We need the State to help address a regional approach supporting the unique needs of our most complex young people as well as to invest in the needed infrastructure for the regional approach across all types of facilities.

Scott County JAF - Individual Youth Served per year % of residence



In the past six years, the Scott County JAF has...

served 15,255 total Bed Days to youth, averaging 2,800 bed days per year.

had a total of 688 Admissions, averaging 125 admissions per year.

served a total of 581 youth, averaging 105 individual youth per year.



Anoka County

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Respectful, Innovative, Fiscally Responsible

Jim Dickinson
County Administrator

March 24, 2025

Representative Joe Schomacker, Chair
Human Services Finance and Policy Committee
Centennial Office Building, 2nd Floor
St Paul, MN 55155

Representative Mohamud Noor, Chair
Human Services Finance and Policy Committee
Centennial Office Building, 5th Floor
St Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for HF 2040-County-Involved Youth

Chairs Schomacker, Noor, and Committee Members,

I am writing today in support of HF 2040. This legislation, developed by seven metro counties working collaboratively, is critical to addressing the urgent need for improvements in how we serve youth with complex mental health and behavioral needs. The end result will be a regional continuum of care for serving these youth no matter how they enter the county systems, using a whole-person, cross-system approach.

As recommended by the Working Group on Youth Interventions, establishing a regional approach will address the overlapping of juvenile justice and human services systems to provide placement and treatment options across the continuum. The regional framework will help counties to leverage individual and collective assets and resources, identify gaps, and develop solutions.

To implement the regional framework, the participating counties have identified legislative changes which will have an immediate and positive impact on the continuum of care. These include:

- Forming a legislative task force to revise and update Minn. R. 2960
- Addressing placement options for youth
- Removing a moratorium on new beds for foster care homes
- Beginning to implement the rate study recommendations for non-residential youth programming.

Anoka County is deeply involved and committed to the regional framework. We firmly believe this approach will meet the needs of these youth and their families.

I urge your support for this effort, as we work to meet the needs of Minnesota's youth.

Sincerely,

Jim Dickinson
County Administrator
763-324-4715

Jim.Dickinson@anokacountymn.gov



March 19, 2025

Representative Joe Schomacker, Chair
Human Services Finance and Policy Committee
Centennial Office Building, 2nd Floor
St Paul, MN 55155

Representative Mohamud Noor, Chair
Human Services Finance and Policy Committee
Centennial Office Building, 5th Floor
St Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for HF2040 – County-Involved Youth

Chairs Schomacker, Noor, and Committee Members,

I am writing today in support of HF2040. This legislation, developed by seven metro counties working collaboratively, is critical to addressing the urgent need for improvements in how we serve youth with complex mental and behavioral health needs. The result will be a regional continuum of care for serving these youth no matter how they enter the county systems.

As recommended by the Working Group on Youth Interventions, establishing a regional approach will address the overlapping of juvenile justice and human services systems to provide placement and treatment options across the continuum. The regional framework will help counties to leverage individual and collective assets and resources, identify gaps, and develop solutions.

To implement the regional framework, the participating counties have identified legislative policy changes which will have an immediate and positive impact on the continuum of care. These include:

- Removing a moratorium on new beds for foster care homes
- Forming a legislative task force to streamline residential facility licensing rules (Minn. R. 2960)
- Implementing the rate study recommendations for non-residential youth programming
- Addressing placement options for youth

Dakota County is deeply involved and committed to the regional framework. We firmly believe these policy changes will meet the needs of these youth and their families, yet we recognize the limitations of gathering and sharing accurate data on this population has prevented a true cost-benefit analysis. We expect the continued regional work to achieve this analysis in order to fully support investment of dollars toward enhancing the continuum of available placement options for youth.

We urge your support for this effort as we work collaboratively to meet the needs of Minnesota’s youth.

Sincerely,

Mike Slavik, Chair
Dakota County Board of Commissioners

County Board of Commissioners



HENNEPIN COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 24, 2025

Representative Joe Schomacker, Chair
Human Services Finance and Policy Committee
Centennial Office Building, 2nd Floor
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Mohamud Noor, Chair
Human Services Finance and Policy Committee
Centennial Office Building, 5th Floor
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for HF 2040-County-Involved Youth

Chair Schomacker, Chair Noor, and Committee Members,

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As recommended by the Working Group on Youth Interventions, establishing a regional approach will address the overlapping of juvenile justice and human services systems to provide placement and treatment options across the continuum. The regional framework will help counties to leverage individual and collective assets and resources, identify gaps, and develop solutions.

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- Forming a legislative task force to revise and update Minn. R. 2960
- Addressing placement options for youth
- Removing a moratorium on new beds for foster care homes
- Beginning to implement the rate study recommendations for non-residential youth programming.

Hennepin County is deeply involved and committed to the regional framework. We firmly believe this approach will meet the needs of these youth and their families.

I urge your support for this effort, as we work to meet the needs of Minnesota's youth.

Sincerely,



Irene Fernando



March 21, 2025

Representative Noor, Chair
Human Services Finance & Policy Committee
5th Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Schomacker, Chair
Human Services Finance & Policy Committee
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for regional continuum of care for serving youth ([HF 2040](#))

Dear Chair Noor, Chair Schomacker, and Committee Members:

On behalf of Olmsted County, I write to respectfully urge your support for HF 2040. Thank you for hearing the bill and for the opportunity to comment.

The provisions in HF 2040 were developed in partnership by seven counties (mostly in the metro area but also including Olmsted County) who have been working collaboratively to address the need for improvements in how counties serve youth with complex mental health and behavioral needs. The result will be a regional continuum of care for serving youth no matter how they enter county systems, using a whole-person, cross-system approach.

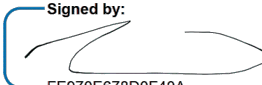
As recommended by the Working Group on Youth Interventions, establishing a regional approach will help address the overlapping of juvenile justice and human services systems to provide placement and treatment options across the continuum. The regional framework will also help counties leverage individual and collective assets and resources, identify gaps, and develop solutions.

To implement the regional framework, the participating counties have identified legislative changes which will have an immediate and positive impact on the continuum of care. These include:

- Forming a legislative task force to revise and update Minnesota Administrative Rules Chapter [2960](#)
- Addressing placement options for youth
- Removing a moratorium on new beds for foster care homes
- Beginning to implement the rate study recommendations for non-residential youth programming

Thank you for your consideration of HF 2040 and for your support of a regional continuum of care to better serve youth in our communities.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

FE970E678D0F40A...

3/22/2025 | 10:27 AM CDT

Mark Thein, Chair
Olmsted County Board of Commissioners

March 25, 2025

RE: Support for HF 2040-County-Involved Youth

Chairs Schomacker, Noor, and Committee Members,

I am writing today in support of HF 2040. This legislation, developed by seven metro counties working collaboratively, is critical to addressing the urgent need for improvements in how we serve youth with complex mental health and behavioral needs. The result will be a regional continuum of care for serving these youth no matter how they enter county systems, using a whole-person, cross-system approach.

As recommended by the Working Group on Youth Interventions, establishing a regional approach will address the overlapping of juvenile justice and human services systems to provide placement and treatment options across the continuum. This regional approach aligns with Ramsey County's goal of strengthening individual, family and community health, safety and well-being; and our vision of creating a vibrant community where all are valued and thrive.

To implement the regional framework, the participating counties have identified legislative changes which will have an immediate and positive impact on the continuum of care. These include:

- Forming a legislative task force to revise and update Minn. R. 2960
- Addressing placement options for youth
- Removing a moratorium on new beds for foster care homes
- Beginning to implement the rate study recommendations for non-residential youth programming.

Ramsey County is deeply involved and committed to the regional framework. We firmly believe this approach will meet the needs of youth and their families – both in Ramsey County and across the state.

I urge your support for this effort, as we work to meet the needs of Minnesota's youth.

Sincerely,



Rafael Ortega
Chair, Ramsey County Board of Commissioners



SCOTT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

200 4th Ave W · Shakopee, MN, 55379
952-496-7750 · www.scottcountymn.gov

March 25, 2025

Representative Joe Schomacker, Chair
Human Services Finance and Policy Committee
Centennial Office Building, 2nd Floor
St Paul, MN 55155

Representative Mohamud Noor, Chair
Human Services Finance and Policy Committee
Centennial Office Building, 5th Floor
St Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for HF 2040-County-Involved Youth

Chairs Schomacker, Noor, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Scott County, I am writing today in support of HF 2040. The seven metro counties worked collaboratively on this important legislation, which addresses the urgent need to improve how we serve youth with complex mental health and safety needs. The outcome of this legislation will be a regional continuum of care that uses a whole-person, cross-system approach to serve youth no matter how they enter the county system.

As a longtime participant in the existing regional system for serving county-involved youth, Scott County operates a Juvenile Alternative Facility (JAF), which serves young people in need of a non-secure placement. Increasingly, the JAF has functioned as a non-secure juvenile facility for the entire region, with approximately 75% of the youth served at the JAF coming from outside Scott County. After years of serving the region, the JAF needs repairs and/or a new location. Now is the time for State investments to support not only a regional approach to meeting the unique needs of our most complex youth including investment in the infrastructure to provide a strong continuum of care ranging from prevention to secure detention. In alignment with the recommendations of the Working Group on Youth Interventions, this legislation establishes a regional approach that addresses the overlapping juvenile justice and human services systems, provides placement and treatment options across the continuum, and helps counties leverage their individual and collective assets to identify gaps and develop solutions.

To implement the regional framework, the participating counties have identified legislative changes which will have an immediate and positive impact on the continuum of care. These include:

- forming a legislative task force to revise and update Minn. R. 2960,
- addressing placement options for youth,
- removing a moratorium on new beds for foster care homes, and
- implementing the rate study recommendations for non-residential youth programming.

Scott County is deeply involved and committed to the regional framework. We firmly believe this approach will meet the needs of these youth and their families. I urge you to support this effort, as we work together to meet the needs of Minnesota's youth.

Sincerely,

Dave Beer
Chair, Scott County Board of Commissioners

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Fran Miron, District 1
Stan Karwoski, District 2, Chair
Bethany Cox, District 3
Karla Bigham, District 4
Michelle Clasen, District 5



March 25, 2025

Representative Joe Schomacker, Chair
Human Services Finance and Policy Committee
Centennial Office Building, 2nd Floor
St Paul, MN 55155

Representative Mohamud Noor, Chair
Human Services Finance and Policy Committee
Centennial Office Building, 5th Floor
St Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for HF 2040-County-Involved Youth

Chairs Schomacker, Noor, and Committee Members,

I am writing today on behalf of the Washington County Board in support of HF 2040. This legislation, developed by seven metro counties working collaboratively, is critical to addressing the urgent need for improvements in how we serve youth with complex mental health and behavioral needs. The end result will be a regional continuum of care for serving these youth no matter how they enter the county systems, using a whole-person, cross-system approach.

As recommended by the Working Group on Youth Interventions, establishing a regional approach will address the overlapping of juvenile justice and human services systems to provide placement and treatment options across the continuum. The regional framework will help counties to leverage individual and collective assets and resources, identify gaps, and develop solutions.

To implement the regional framework, the participating counties have identified legislative changes which will have an immediate and positive impact on the continuum of care. These include:

- Forming a legislative task force to revise and update Minn. R. 2960
- Addressing placement options for youth
- Removing a moratorium on new beds for foster care homes
- Beginning to implement the rate study recommendations for non-residential youth programming.

Washington County is deeply involved and committed to the regional framework. We firmly believe this approach will meet the needs of these youth and their families.

I urge your support for this effort, as we work to meet the needs of Minnesota's youth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stanley J. Karwoski".

Stan Karwoski, County Board Chair
Washington County Board of Commissioners – District 2

We strive to provide exceptional services that enhance quality of life and promote a safe, healthy, and welcoming community for all.

Government Center | 14949 62nd Street North | P. O. Box 6 | Stillwater, MN 55082-0006
P: 651-430-6001 | F: 651-430-6017 | TTY: 651-430-6246
www.washingtoncountymn.gov

Washington County is an equal opportunity organization and employer

March 25th, 2025

RE: Support for HF2040

Dear Members of the Human Services Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), I write to express our strong support for HF2040. HF2040 provides much-needed investments in Minnesota's children's mental health system and takes critical steps toward improving the continuum of care for youth with complex needs.

Counties are on the front lines of delivering mental health services, and we recognize the urgent need to address funding gaps, expand crisis stabilization services, and support children's residential facilities. The investments outlined in HF2040 are essential to ensuring that children and families have timely access to appropriate mental health care in their communities.

As recommended by the Working Group on Youth Interventions, establishing a regional approach will address the overlapping of juvenile justice and human services systems to provide placement and treatment options across the continuum. The regional framework will help counties to leverage individual and collective assets and resources, identify gaps, and develop solutions. To implement this framework, participating counties have identified legislative changes that will have an immediate and positive impact, including the formation of a legislative task force to:

- Revise and update Minn. R. 2960
- Address placement options for youth
- Removing the moratorium on new beds for foster care homes
- Begin to implement the rate study recommendations for non-residential youth programming.

AMC fully supports HF2040 and its comprehensive approach to strengthening Minnesota's mental health system for children and families. We urge your support for HF2040 and stand ready to assist in its advancement.

Emilio Lamba

Emilio Lamba, Public Safety & Corrections Policy Analyst
Association of Minnesota Counties



www.maccac.org

March 25th, 2025

RE: Support for HF2040

Dear Members of the Human Services Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties (MACCAC), I write to express our strong support for HF2040. HF2040 provides much-needed investments in Minnesota's children's mental health system and takes critical steps toward improving the continuum of care for youth with complex needs.

Counties are on the front lines of delivering mental health services, and we recognize the urgent need to address funding gaps, expand crisis stabilization services, and support children's residential facilities. The investments outlined in HF2040 are essential to ensuring that children and families have timely access to appropriate mental health care in their communities.

As recommended by the Working Group on Youth Interventions, establishing a regional approach will address the overlapping of juvenile justice and human services systems to provide placement and treatment options across the continuum. The regional framework will help counties to leverage individual and collective assets and resources, identify gaps, and develop solutions. To implement this framework, participating counties have identified legislative changes that will have an immediate and positive impact, including the formation of a legislative task force to:

- Revise and update Minn. R. 2960
- Address placement options for youth
- Removing the moratorium on new beds for foster care homes
- Begin to implement the rate study recommendations for non-residential youth programming.

MACCAC fully supports HF2040 and its comprehensive approach to strengthening Minnesota's mental health system for children and families. We urge your support for HF2040 and stand ready to assist in its advancement.

Emilio Lamba

Emilio Lamba, Legislative Director
Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties

Regional framework for youth with complex mental health needs

HENNEPIN COUNTY MINNESOTA

Youth in crisis

A small but significant population of county-involved youth have unmet needs due to complex mental health diagnoses, behaviors, and trauma. Gaps and barriers in the current system leave these youth without treatment options, forcing them into inappropriate placements that are far from their support systems and oftentimes more damaging.

Youth with complex needs may be involved with multiple systems, including human services and juvenile justice systems. In addition, Minnesota licenses and certifies placement facilities separately from treatment programming, which means youth can't always access appropriate services.

Fundamental structural reform is needed. At this time, a group of metro-area and other counties is developing a regional plan to enhance and improve the continuum of care, serving county-involved youth with a whole-person, cross-system approach.

This plan is built on the recommendations of the 2024 Working Group on Youth Interventions, and will include the voice of the youth and families most impacted.

Immediate response: crisis stabilization center

To address one of the most acute gaps in services, Hennepin County is funding and opening a youth crisis stabilization center at our Behavioral Health Center at 1800 Chicago Avenue in Minneapolis.

Target population and services

- Youth with complex behavioral health needs, regardless of which system they enter
- Residential crisis stabilization for youth who cannot remain safely at home: treatment and therapeutic supports while triage, assessment, and planning take place with families
- Culturally responsive services delivered by a community agency, intended to reduce the deep racial disparities concentrated in this part of the system
- 10-15 beds for short-term stays of 30-45 days

Contacts

Hennepin County Intergovernmental Relations

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Director

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liz.young@hennepin.us

Wanda Cannon

Public Policy Manager

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wanda.cannon@hennepin.us

Hennepin County Human Services

Lisa Bayley

Director, Safe Communities

Cell: 612-432-6168

lisa.bayley@hennepin.us

Leah Kaiser

Director, Behavioral Health

Office: 612-596-1779

leah.kaiser@hennepin.us

Website

hennepin.us

Long-term response: regional framework offering continuum of care

Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Scott, Ramsey, and Washington counties in the metro, plus St. Louis, Olmsted, and Stearns counties in outstate Minnesota, are collaborating to leverage their individual and collective strengths and capacities to create a continuum of services, facilities, and care that supports youth with complex mental health needs and their families.

Leaders and staff from participating partner counties will jointly identify actionable reforms, innovative solutions, and broad strategies to fill the gaps in the care continuum.

Legislative proposals

As this effort begins, several legislative policy changes have been identified that would have both immediate and longer-term impacts on maximizing capacity and getting care for the young people who need it.

Proposals address:

- **Licensing and certification**
- **Medicaid benefit policy**
- **Reimbursement rate structure**

See supplement for details on policy and funding proposals.

Regional framework for youth with complex mental health needs

Metro-area and partner counties are working together to improve the continuum of care, serving county-involved youth with a whole-person, cross-system approach.

Policy proposals

As this effort begins, we have identified several legislative policy changes that have both immediate and longer-term impacts on maximizing capacity and getting care for the young people who need it.

Licensing and certification

Establish a legislative task force including the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of Corrections (DOC), Direct Care and Treatment (DCT), counties, providers and community members to provide specific licensing standards for unique levels of care, for children's residential mental health facilities covered under Minn. R. 2960.0580 to 2960.0690.

Allow an exception to the current moratorium on youth beds to expand capacity of licensed child foster residence settings, adding placement options for least restrictive treatment options (disability waiver system).

Modify Minn. R. 2960.0710 regarding training for restrictive procedures licenses to be trauma-responsive and include culturally appropriate and responsive practices.

Medicaid benefit policy

Inmate Exclusion/Reentry Waiver

Direct the State Medicaid Agency-DHS to prioritize full implementation of the federal direction under the Consolidated Appropriation Act (CAA), requiring states to provide certain health care services for eligible youth incarcerated in correctional institutions.

Crisis Stabilization Benefit

Direct the State Medicaid Agency-DHS to expedite the implementation of the benefit "residential crisis stabilization for children."

Reimbursement rate structure

Require DHS to begin phased implementation of the 2023 non-residential rate study recommendations by July 1, 2025.

Require DHS to conduct a review of the financial model for residential children's facilities by July 1, 2026.

Create a temporary fund for the existing seven children's residential treatment facilities until the financial review offers guidance for the administration by host counties.

Funding the regional framework

The participating counties are each committed to partnering in the continuum of services. To fill the most pressing gaps and shortages, we are seeking some immediate short-term funding to narrow service gaps, offer critical programming and support the build out of the regional framework.

Areas of identified need include:

- **Stabilizing staff**
Incentives, training, rate increases, and support for critical front-line and clinical staff.
- **Funding programming and services**
Funding for community provider programming in juvenile detention centers or shelters, as well as care coordination with community mental health for transitions out of care.
- **Supporting facilities and providers**
Maximizing capacity and effectiveness in existing facilities; supporting temporary rate increase for children's residential facilities.
- **Building out the regional continuum of care framework**
Framework planning and development of implementation road map; data sharing model.
- **Addressing gap funding for operational costs for crisis stabilization center**
Reimbursement for operational costs for Hennepin County's crisis stabilization center until Medicaid benefit is in place.

Hennepin County
Intergovernmental Relations

Liz Young
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Wanda Cannon
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Hennepin County
Human Services

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SCOTT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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March 25, 2025

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Centennial Office Building, 2nd Floor
St Paul, MN 55155

Representative Mohamud Noor, Chair
Human Services Finance and Policy Committee
Centennial Office Building, 5th Floor
St Paul, MN 55155

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- implementing the rate study recommendations for non-residential youth programming.

Scott County is deeply involved and committed to the regional framework. We firmly believe this approach will meet the needs of these youth and their families. I urge you to support this effort, as we work together to meet the needs of Minnesota's youth.

Sincerely,

Dave Beer
Chair, Scott County Board of Commissioners