



Legislative Priority: Providing Mental Health Services in Jails and the Community

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports county initiatives that reduce incarceration of those with mental illness in local jails and redirects the existing county cost share dollars to efforts that increase mental health system capacity.

BACKGROUND: Around 60% of those in the corrections system struggle with mental health challenges. Many counties are already developing initiatives to reduce the number of mentally ill Minnesotans in jail. Some efforts are state supported and others are county financed.

CURRENT SITUATION: A significant portion of the mental health infrastructure is funded by county costs shares. While counties would prefer the elimination of these cost shares, as long as they're in place, this revenue should be used in ways that meet county needs in delivering these services.

2017 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY: The legislature should support expansion of existing programs and create incentives for new programs aimed at reducing the number of mentally ill Minnesotans in jail. Providing treatment options for people in jail can reduce the number of repeat offenders, get individuals the help they need, and save lives.