



An association of resources and advocacy for children, youth and families

www.aspiremn.org

FIRST FRIDAY – updates and ideas to share

April 5, 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **AspireMN hosting HBO *Foster* debut:** April 22, AspireMN and QPI-MN have been invited to host the Minnesota debut of the HBO documentary *Foster* at a screening event. The goal of the event is to cultivate new leadership for foster care and child welfare in Minnesota.
- **AspireMN Member Meeting:** June 13 and 14 at The Inn on Lake Superior in Duluth.
- **AspireMN Leadership Retreat:** September 12 and 13 at Madden's Resort in Brainerd.
- **Youth Worker Conference 2019, *No Such Thing as a Bad Kid*** with crowd favorite keynote Charlie Appelstein: October 7 and 8 at Cragun's in Brainerd
 - Call for Presenters now open! Please send your 1.5 hour or 3 hour breakout session proposals to rpeter@aspiremn.org.
 - Sponsorships in support of the Youth Worker Conference are welcome. Contact Rachel at the above address for more information.

FEDERAL UPDATES

- Department of Labor 2019 overtime rule: [The new proposed rule](#) would increase the standard salary level to \$679 per week or \$35,308 per year for exempt executive, administrative, professional and computer employees.
- Council on Accreditation (COA) Launches a [New Family First Prevention Services Act \(FFPSA\) website](#) to serve as a hub for FFPSA resources and information for the field.

MINNESOTA LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

AspireMN's Legislative Priorities

Included in the proposed House HHS Finance Omnibus:

- **Children's Mental Health**

- Children's Intensive Mental Health proposal – includes the next biennium of funding for existing Children's Residential (IMD beds), expanded PRTF capacity – language outlines for 80 beds to be added in this next biennium and 70 in the following.
- Expand and Strengthen School-Linked Mental Health – \$9.4M increase in 2020/21 and a \$10.6M increase in 2022/23
- Uniform Service Standards
- CCBHC Expansion
- We are very disappointed to not see a Say Yes & Invest response to support community based mental health rates. AspireMN testified to the committee that a lack of movement on mental health rates continues to be a deep concern. With partners we continue to strategize on what opportunities may be possible to pursue to address our mental health rates.

- **QPI-MN/Child Welfare**

- Foster Care Licensing Expansion – language developed with many stakeholders to create greater opportunity for licensing of foster parents, AspireMN helped amend language clarifying that liability for licensing decisions rests with the commissioner and to create greater ease of licensing for kin by decreasing required carseat training time.
- Child Welfare Training Academy
- Heaven's Law – creating intrastate agreements to check on the state of origin for a parent in a case of child removal due to abuse

- **Safe Harbor and Homeless Youth**

- Homeless Youth Act – increase of \$1.5M over this and the next biennium, we helped amend language to sustain leadership conversation about access for vital documents for homeless youth.
- Safe Harbor Services – increase of \$500M in one-time funding from DHS for shelter and housing and of \$500M in one-time funding from MDH

Senate Omnibus Bills will be published over the weekend and early next week.

Moving Testimony - Last week, the joint Senate HHS Committee heard the testimony of Arin, one of 6,000 young people experiencing homelessness on any given night in the state of Minnesota. [KSTP filmed his testimony.](#)

NEW RESEARCH

The Children’s Intensive Mental Health Study was publicly released this week by DHS. AspireMN, NAMI-MN and many partners supported the development of this important study. The DHS [Legislative report is here.](#)

FIELD-RELATED UPDATES

The Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare (CASCW) is hosting their Spring Conference, [Understanding Substance Use and Interventions in Child Welfare, on April 30 and May 1.](#)

- Three AspireMN foster care organizations will also be hosting live-streams of the first day (April 30) of the conference. You are encouraged to invite members of the foster care community to these events. You can register for the live-streaming events on the regular conference registration page [HERE.](#)
 - **Family Alternatives** 1089 SE Tenth Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55414
 - **Evolve Adoption & Family Services** 149 Thompson Ave E., Suite 115, West St. Paul, MN 55118
 - **Lutheran Social Service of MN** 424 West Superior Street, Duluth, MN 55802

DHS Updates

- An update about [CCBHCs in Minnesota](#).
- Update to the [EIDBI billing grid in the MHCP Provider Manual](#).
- DHS, through its Behavioral Health Division, has issued a [request for proposals](#) for qualified grantees to provide Warmlines, education and support for people, family, and communities navigating behavioral health systems.

Request from NAMI: Has your organization recently started any new programs or projects? If so, please send information to Sue Abderholden at NAMI for inclusion in their newsletter. Sabderholden@namimn.org

Open Minds is publicizing an opportunity to join an [EHR Best Practices Community](#), a free platform for health and human service executives and technology subject matter experts to share best practices on selecting, implementing, and optimizing performance of their electronic health recording (EHR) technology.

An Update from UST (a sponsor of AspireMN)

Is Your Nonprofit's Funding at Risk?

Whether you're a tax-rated employer who recently received a notice of first quarter unemployment taxes payable to the state, or you're a direct reimbursing employer looking to ensure financial stability, UST has a solution for you.

Just last year, UST's program participants saved more than \$25.1 million on unemployment claims costs, and utilized over \$1 million in HR services... at no additional cost.

With unemployment claims being so unpredictable, taking the time to review your unemployment costs and funding options as a 501(c)(3) is vital to maintaining the welfare of your nonprofit, employees and mission. As you recall, the last recession was detrimental to the nonprofit sector—so it's crucial that you do your due diligence today to ensure financial security in advance of the next economic downturn.

[UST](#) offers nonprofits an extensive variety of cost-saving services, including administrative support, unemployment insurance, state-specific claims advice, a live HR hotline, online employee training courses, e-Filing capabilities, outplacement services and more.

Fill out the online or call UST directly at 888-249-4788 to see which UST program will best suit your organization's workforce needs. (Expedite your request by entering Priority Code: 2019AMN-E).

ASPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS

from Cheryl Lundsgaard at St. David's Center

*Life is full of beauty... Notice it.
Notice the trees, the small children, and the smiling faces.
Smell the snow and feel the wind.
Live your life to the fullest potential, and fight for your dreams.*

~ Adapted from Ashley Smith ~

These words were shared with me by a colleague and inspire me daily. During this past month of cold and way too much snow, it reminds me that there is beauty in all things. Even snow! This is exactly the joy my work brings to me. Being one of many of us who find beauty in the lives of all those we support and work with is what gets me to work every day. I also get to share that beauty, especially as a part of AspireMN, with others often the decision makers. The beauty in the child who now has a support they need which helps them find smiles and self-confidence in their daily life. The beauty in a parent being able to put food on their family's table with pride. The beauty in seeing a child find a sense of safety and security in a relationship. The beauty in a parent's increased confidence and voice in advocating for what they know their child needs. All of this equals HOPE. Here is to you...the holders of hope and pursuers of dreams as we go on this journey together!