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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Psychological Association Calls on Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota to Cease Recoupment

Contact:

Michelle Herr

Executive Director

Minnesota Psychological Association

4248 Park Glen Road

Minneapolis, MN 55416

Phone: (952) 928 - 4657

Today the Minnesota Psychological Association (MPA) formally requested that Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota (BCBSMN) cease its efforts to recoup overpayments for Medicaid claims made to behavioral health providers due to Blue Cross Blue Shield's own errors in processing those claims. MPA made this request in a [letter](#) (attached) to BCBSMN CEO, Michael Guyette, noting that this recoupment is extremely burdensome to providers and may very well force some providers out of business. This in turn would threaten access to care for Minnesotans who rely on the State's Medicaid program to pay for psychological and behavioral health services. Providers are receiving requests for repayment of a few hundred to tens of thousands of dollars. Funds paid to providers and clinics that subcontract with other clinicians may have no way to recoup their losses.

MPA joins a chorus of provider and advocacy groups in asking that this recoupment be rescinded. Incoming President of MPA, Bruce Bobbitt, Ph.D.,LP, noted that "this particular recoupment effort is particularly troubling because of the distinct possibility that some providers may not be able to make it through the financial crisis and continue to serve this vulnerable population of Minnesota residents." Dr. Bobbitt went on to add that "While Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota may have the legal ability to ask for the return of these funds it does not make it the right thing to do which is why we have asked them to cease this process and to return any funds already received to the providers. After all, it was their error, but it is the providers and potentially BCBSMN enrollees who are suffering the consequences." Compared to many of the clinics, provider groups, and individual clinicians serving these Minnesota residents, BCBSMN is far better equipped to absorb the financial consequences of their own mistake. MPA asks that BCBSMN do the right thing for their provider network and most importantly for the Minnesota residents enrolled in their insurance plans.

The mission of the Minnesota Psychological Association is to serve the science of psychology and its applications throughout Minnesota so the interests of public welfare and psychologists are mutually enhanced.

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