

Comment on Proposed Fairview Health Services - Acadia Healthcare Mental Health Hospital

Date, Time:

6/9/2022 8:02:49 PM

Name:

Carrie

Where do you live:

Hennepin county MN

Do you represent an organization?

No

What organization do you represent?

What is your comment on the proposed mental health hospital?

Adding inpatient beds that we cannot staff adequately is not going to solve the mental health crisis we are facing in our community. We already have open beds that we are unable to staff adequately. Many people are "stuck" on the units now that are waiting for transitional care in a nursing home, group home or residential care. They are at capacity, many of them understaffed and also leaving beds open due to a lack of available staff. The turnover is extremely high because they are not paid livable wages to care for our sickest residents. What is desperately needed is an investment in the level of outpatient services and supports so we can give people the needed skills to maintain health in their community- where they live. Inpatient is just a place where treatment can be provided, Treatment can and should be able to be accessed in the community, but many people can not get appointments, or into a crisis residence and are so decompensated by the time they show up to the ED that they need a higher level of care. With other illnesses we focus on preventative measures and care but yet the answer for mental health is more beds to admit to? Add 144 more residential care beds, or group home beds that can be staffed. That is more of a need in the community than a freestanding inpatient MH unit where patients will be "cherry-picked" for admission while the rest of the hospitals will be left to treat the sickest and poorest an unsustainable proposition which will have a profound negative impact on their ability to provide care.