

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

Date, Time:

6/4/2022 8:08:43 PM

Name:

Cynthia K McInroy

Where do you live:

Bloomington

Do you represent an organization?

No

What organization do you represent?

n/a

What is your comment on the proposed mental health hospital?

As a family member of an adult with a chronic mental health history and many hospitalizations in a 10 year span (United St Paul, Regions St Paul, Worthington, and New Ulm) I understand the importance of fast access to and quality care from in patient mental health facilities. There have been times my sibling sat in an emergency room for 2 days waiting for a bed to open. The waits at these times feeling inhumane as no one could stay with them and they had a security guard stationed at their door/curtain. Their stays in Worthington and New Ulm were because those were the nearest facility with an open bed. My sibling would be taken there by ambulance from a metro area ER, which sometimes was paid for by insurance. But a family member had to go and pick them up at discharge. My sibling had private health insurance, so we didn't have the additional burden of waiting for a site that took uninsured or Medical Assistance only patients.

The proposed new facility at St. Joe's will provide 144 much needed beds for emotional health care. That it is a focused facility for only this population and not in a general large medical hospital makes it more welcoming to family members. The effectiveness of facilities with a focused mission and treatment course makes long term stability in mental health much more possible, and less likely for the repetitive cycle of hospitalization when someone is not able to stay long enough because they are no longer in "critical care" need.

I would hope that the State will approve this new facility since Fairview is an established "good faith" provider and approaching with partnership of a provider specialized in mental health. It is a small answer to much needed services.

I would also hope that consideration of additional similar stand alone facilities would be given in the future to a site for pre-teens and adolescents, and young pediatric mental health patients (2 separate facilities) - since it saddens me when these populations are mixed in at large institutional sites with people older than themselves. The atmosphere being too adult for adolescents who are exposed to the chronic chemical abuse and other life experiences from adults there, and too "hospital" and frightening for young children. That all facilities could be constructed with well health environs that still provide low risk for self-harm, rather than being adapted hospital rooms and units, should be a goal of a state that leads in health care. The emotional health of our state being as important as the physical one for all our residents.