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mayoclinic.org

September 19, 2016

Dr. Edward Ehlinger, Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Health
PO Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975



Dear Dr. Ehlinger:

It has come to our attention that PrairieCare Hospital is seeking to increase the capacity of their inpatient child and adolescent psychiatric unit in Brooklyn Park by 21 inpatient beds. This letter is being written in support of PrairieCare's request.

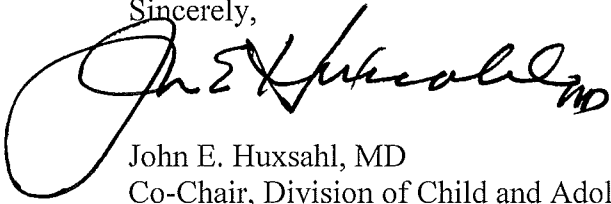
Currently, due to the shortage of inpatient psychiatric beds for children and adolescents, patients may wait many days for an inpatient bed to open somewhere in the state of Minnesota. Children are frequently needing to be transported across the state, far away from their home community, and away from their families, which adversely affect the provision of care and the important involvement of families in the care of children with psychiatric symptoms. Increasing the number of beds in the state's most populous region will help to decrease this problem, not only in the Twin Cities area, but throughout the state, as it is very common for Twin Cities' patients to be transported to other hospitals throughout the state, adversely affecting the access to local beds when patients from the Twin Cities occupy beds in greater Minnesota.

Minnesota is facing a substantial shortage of the array of mental health services needed to provide adequate services for the citizens of Minnesota. The work being done by Governor Dayton's Task Force on Mental Health has underscored how access to inpatient psychiatric beds is of critical importance in the short-term as the State seeks longer-term solutions to the mental health care access problems facing Minnesotans. We believe there is a strong need for the additional beds proposed by PrairieCare and will help to close part of the gap in shortage of services for children and adolescents requiring inpatient care. We believe the quality of care provided by PrairieCare in all of its facilities, and specifically in the Brooklyn Park Hospital, is excellent and that this organization is well-positioned to provide adequate staffing models and overall complete inpatient services in a way that will meet the needs of the additional patients they will be serving on the inpatient unit.



Please do not hesitate to contact us if there are questions regarding our support of PrairieCare's request to increase the number of beds available within the hospital at PrairieCare.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Huxsahl, MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "H".

John E. Huxsahl, MD
Co-Chair, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychology
Department of Psychiatry and Psychology
Mayo Clinic

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Sutor, MD". The signature is cursive and somewhat compact.

Bruce Sutor, MD
Clinical Practice Chair
Department of Psychiatry and Psychology
Mayo Clinic

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Frye, MD". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Mark A. Frye, MD
Professor and Chair, Department of Psychiatry & Psychology
Director, Mayo Clinic Depression Center
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota