



North Memorial

December 23, 2016

Mr. Stefan Gildemeister
Minnesota Department of Health
P O Box 64882
St Paul MN 55164-0882

Dear Mr, Gildemeister:

We thank you for the recent request for feedback regarding PrairieCare's proposed plan to expand the number of licensed beds at their existing specialty hospital in Brooklyn Park. We are appreciative of PrairieCare's interest in providing more adolescent behavioral health services, as this is certainly an unmet need in the community.

In consideration of their request, we would hope that the Minnesota Department of Health might be willing to encourage PrairieCare that any increase in bed capacity in their facility would be made available to all adolescent patients in need, regardless of insurance carrier. We believe there is a significant unmet need for adolescents in the community and that this is not limited to those with commercial insurance. We would hope that PrairieCare would consider helping to meet this need.

Additionally, we would suggest careful consideration of moving to double-occupancy rooms. This may have an unintended consequence on customer experience. Whether the need to provide more access to adolescent mental health services outweighs this impact may be something for consideration.

Again, we thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Sincerely,

Jeff Wicklander
President
North Memorial Medical Center

Jennifer Close
President and Chief Ambulatory Officer
North Memorial Health Care

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