
Sponsor: Communications & Public Relations

Meeting Date: 2/2/2021

Title: Inclusion of Support for Regions Hospital's Legislation for Additional Bed Licenses in the 2021 Legislative Platform

File Number: 2021-096

Background and Rationale:

In the 2018 legislative session, Regions Hospital sought approval for 100 new bed licenses and received 55. At the time, Regions believed that would be enough to meet community needs for at least the next 5-10 years. However, the closure of Bethesda and St. Joseph's Hospital has changed the calculations of hospital bed availability in the East Metro. Regions Hospital will likely be using all 55 new licenses by the end of 2021. It is not clear that remaining East Metro Emergency Departments can absorb St. Joseph's current patient volumes

It is important for Regions Hospital to secure additional licenses this session given the loss of St. Joseph's Emergency Department and inpatient beds. Regions Hospital is unique among large Minnesota hospitals in terms of using nearly all of its bed license capacity. Due to the Hospital Construction Moratorium passed in 1984, Regions needs legislative approval to add additional bed licenses.

As the only Level 1 Trauma Center for the East Metro, it is critical that Regions Hospital have sufficient bed capacity so that patients in need are not turned away or delayed. The East Metro population is diverse, growing and aging and there is a need to plan now for the expected need for more inpatient bed capacity.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Approve for inclusion in the 2021 State Legislative Platform support for Regions Hospital's request for legislative action to approve 45 additional bed licenses to support community needs in the East Metro.
2. Authorize county representatives to work with members of the legislature and other interested parties to support this legislation.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner McDonough, seconded by Commissioner McGuire. Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

By: 

Janet Guthrie, Chief Clerk - County Board