

Julie Sonier - Comments regarding Prairie St. John's Hospital proposal

From: "Buboltz, Marilyn A"
To:
Date: 1/8/2008 4:56 PM
Subject: Comments regarding Prairie St. John's Hospital proposal
CC: "Wells, Mary E" , "_HAHC - Inpatient MHU - RN Managers" <_HAHC-InpatientMHU-RNManagers@hahc-mn.org>

Julie,

Our hospital had received your letter indicating the process that is occurring through the Department of Health due to the proposal submitted by Prairie St. John's to build a new psychiatric hospital in Woodbury. Our hospital in Hutchinson has a 12 bed Inpatient Mental Health Unit and approximately 30% of the patients admitted to our unit are transferred from the metro counties.

The management team and I plan to attend the meeting on the 22nd to hear more about the proposal.

After reading the proposal we do have questions that may be clarified at that meeting.

The changes in the State Operated Services and the closing of the Regional Treatment Centers have created some complications for our Community Hospitals Mental Health Unit. We're not sure if the Prairie St. John's proposal will be an answer to those issues. There are two easily identified gaps that have been created by the closure of the Regional Treatment Center and they are 1.) facilities that can manage patients with a high risk of violence and 2.) facilities that will accept medically complicated patients.

Adequate reimbursement is an issue for Mental Health Units. We do have questions/concerns regarding Prairie St. John's Payor Mix data and the fact that they will not accept Medicaid patients due to federal regulations. We would like to hear more about their intake process in acceptance of underinsured and uninsured patients. We would assume they would be governed by EMTALA regulations considering they would be certified as a "specialty" hospital. (An area for clarification)

Thank you for including Hutchinson Area Health Care in your request for this proposal review.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Buboltz

Hutchinson Area Health Care

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