



June 17, 2022

Minnesota Department of Health
625 Robert Street North
P.O. Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975

Dear Mr. Gildemeister:

We appreciated the opportunity to participate in the public comment meeting on Thursday, June 9, 2022, regarding Acadia's partnership with Fairview Health Services to build a new 144-bed inpatient mental health and addiction hospital in St. Paul. We take seriously every comment shared by community members during the meeting and appreciate the opportunity to provide additional information related to some primary areas of public comment.

First, some comments raised questions related to our status as a for-profit organization. We do not believe these concerns to be rooted in any evidence of our patient care practices. All hospitals, regardless of their financial model, are held to the same standard of care by state and national regulatory bodies. In 17 years of operation across more than 230 facilities, no Acadia operated facility has lost its state license, lost or been denied the renewal of its national accreditation by the Joint Commission and other accrediting bodies, or been denied access to or removed from any payor program including Medicare or Medicaid in any state. Each of our hospitals is operating in line with all CMS conditions of participation, as you would expect any good hospital to operate. Moreover, the new hospital will operate in alignment with Fairview's tax-exempt status, aligning to its charitable services and nonprofit values.

Second, some meeting attendees voiced questions about the new hospital's specialty nature and ability to provide integrated care. We share in these community members' belief that people in need of acute psychiatric care also require, and deserve, integrated medical care – and we are prepared to deliver just that. Our model is fully integrated and designed to care for patients' whole health. Patients at the new hospital will be cared for by psychiatrists and certified nurse practitioners trained to manage many medical conditions and day-to-day health needs common in mental health units. The hospital will also be staffed by internal medicine doctors and primary care teams, ready to care for patients' physical health, as other specialists help patients manage their mental health. Our operations will be fully prepared for conditions that include, but are not limited to intoxication, overdose, wounds from self-harm, frost bit, heat stroke, dehydration, diabetes, COPD, and diseases of the heart, liver or kidneys.

And finally, we believe that comments and questions related to access by patients to care at the new hospital are addressed at length in materials previously provided to MDH by Fairview and Acadia. Details related to intake, admission, expected patient payor mix and intention to coordinate with referral sources of all kinds (including but not limited to area emergency departments and law enforcement) are described in detail in our application materials. The new

hospital will work closely with the Department of Health to verify that all patients, no matter their income, or insurance status, have equal access to high quality, integrated mental health and addiction care.

Thank you again for the opportunity to clarify these important details related to the new mental health hospital. If there is anything further we can do to assist in the department's review of our proposal, we are eager to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey Woods". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Dr. Jeffrey Woods, MS, MPH, MSN, DNP
Operations Group President
Acadia Healthcare