

## Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)

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**From:** Jodi Ritacca [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2022 4:04 PM  
**To:** MN\_Health\_PIR@state.mn.us  
**Subject:** Comments on need for more inpatient mental health beds

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MDH,

I participated in the MDH virtual public hearing last Thursday evening. After hearing Fairview and Arcadia presentations and the proposed new stand alone hospital for more mental health beds, especially in the Twin Cities Metro East side in St Paul, here are my comments:

My family and I have lived in Minnesota for more than 29 years and specifically in the East Metro.

As a video and documentary producer and former news reporter, I have covered health and medical news in Minnesota since 1993.

So, I am acutely aware of the ongoing and emerging health and medical issues in Minnesota including the need for more inpatient mental health beds.

The need for more inpatient mental health beds is an issue that hit close to home when my family personally experienced the need for an inpatient mental health bed during a family crisis.

Late last year, my 15-year-old nephew, Max, had a mental health crisis. He spent several DAYS in one of the local ERs waiting for an inpatient mental health bed, and waiting for the specialized addiction care services that he desperately needed before he harmed himself or someone else.

Thank goodness an inpatient bed was finally found, and he received the specialized mental health care services he needed to survive his mental health crisis.

I know my nephew is not alone. More inpatient mental health beds means people like my nephew can get access to inpatient mental health care services faster, where the patient can be stabilized.

I believe a stand alone mental health hospital on the Twin Cities East Metro will positively impact the availability and quality of inpatient mental health and addiction services in Minnesota, and build a stronger, more sustainable system for mental health care.

Until 2015, I was employed with HealthEast Care System, which is now part of M Health Fairview. So, I'm well aware that Fairview is a trusted leader and valued partner in meeting the mental health and addiction care needs in our community.

For these reasons and because of my nephew's recent experience, that is why I support the proposed stand alone new state-of-the-art mental health hospital be in St Paul. Thank you!

Jodi Carlini