DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

COMMENT ON PROPOSED HOSPITALS

Name:

Latiya McGee-Whitson

Do you represent an organization? If yes, please specify:

Proposed hospital(s) that you would like to share comments. Please select all that apply:

Nobis Rehabilitation

Whether the proposed new hospitals are needed to provide timely access to care:

I don't have any stats but I've had family who have needed long-term PT/OT care and I'm grateful. These supports are necessary for people to better and back home and in the community where they want to be. It increases autonomy, confidence, mood, self-esteem and self-worth. People can have a sense of agency in their lives....especially those who have few or no other support system (friends, family, faith groups, etc.)

The financial impact of the new hospitals on existing hospitals that have emergency departments:

I don't know.

How new hospitals would affect the ability of existing hospitals to maintain staff:

I don't know but the opening could create jobs for people. Consider hiring 16 year olds for admin tasks like cleaning, phones, filing, creating/updating websites and other graphics, etc. Our young people are suffering so much since the pandemic and traditional school...while already outdated...is even worse for some. Not all youth are geared towards traditional school. Their minds work differently. they need more purpose "now". something to "do", "create", be a part of, and broader sense of accomplishment and of course...to make money. Many don't have good living environments and want to be on their own. Of course there are barriers like age but still. working is one of the best social programs in life and fast food isn't always the answer.

The extent to which the new hospitals would provide services to nonpaying or low-income patients.:

I don't know but I hope there would be a fair balance. Especially those who have few or no other support system (friends, family, faith groups, etc.)

Please share other thoughts on the proposals including, but not limited to, views on new models of for-profit care in Minnesota:

The best I can think of is to try to create an application/program where non-profits can share resources. A data bank of sorts. Like a computer-based "211". That could create a few jobs because it would need to be kept up. Please consider creating more virtual part-time and part-time flex jobs (2 hrs in the AM and 2 hours in the PM, etc.) for people with mobility issues but who are not receiving disability yet or who don't want to...and for people who do receive it but can't earn too much money but want to work and have a sense of accomplishment. Thanks!