

September 9, 2016

Dr. Edward Ehlinger, Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Health
P.O. BOX 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975

**RE: PrairieCare's Proposal to Add 21 Beds to its Psychiatric Hospital
for Children and Adolescents in Brooklyn Park**

Dear Commissioner Ehlinger:

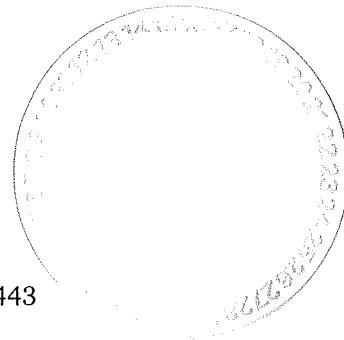
On behalf of Children's Hospitals and Clinics, I write in support of PrairieCare's proposal to add much needed capacity to the children's inpatient mental health system here in the Twin Cities by adding 21 beds to its current 50-bed facility in Brooklyn Park.

Each year thousands of children experience mental health emergencies. Many of these children wait hours or days in our emergency departments or on our pediatric units before they are able to access the few specialized units in the state able to provide the care they truly need. The added capacity provided by approving this proposal for 21 additional beds will have a real and meaningful impact on hundreds of children's lives each year.

Sincerely,



Phillip M. Kibort, MD, MBA
Vice President Medical Affairs
Chief Medical Officer



Cc: John Ryan, JD; 9400 Zane Ave N; Brooklyn Park, MN 55443