

January 10, 2017

Diane Rydrych
Director, Division of Health Policy
Minnesota Department of Health
PO Box #64882
St. Paul MN 55164-0882

Stefan.gildemeister@state.mn.us
sent via email to Stefan Gildemeister

Re: PrairieCare's proposal to expand beds/Brooklyn Park to serve psychiatric patients under age 21

Dear Ms Rydrych:

I am writing on behalf of Children's Minnesota in response to your letter dated December 16, 2016 concerning the above-referenced proposal.

Access to mental health services for pediatric patients in Minnesota is a significant problem. It is not unusual for Children's Minnesota to have patients who have been admitted to our hospitals waiting for more than a week for mental health inpatient placement due to a lack of available beds. It is a growing problem that will require additional facilities and services.

With respect to the proposal to convert single-occupancy rooms to double-occupancy rooms, our clinical leadership has provided the following input. While increasing access by doubling up existing patient rooms has the benefit of increasing access to mental health services, it erodes the efforts by children's hospitals nationally to recognize parents as vital members of the health care team. Children's hospitals nationally have removed parental visiting restrictions, engaged parents in daily medical rounds, created expectations for consistent care conferences with the hospital team and moved to single patient rooms on medical surgical floors and intensive care units, including neonatal intensive care units. These single bed rooms have been designed to include designated space for parents 24/7, including sleeping arrangements with the goal of parents as partners, comfortable and welcome in the hospital environment.

While PrairieCare's proposal does not provide the above described model, we believe the benefit in increased access for children in the community outweighs any negative impact of double occupancy rooms.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this proposal.

Sincerely,



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