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November 2, 2021

Alisha Simon
Health Economics Program
PO Box 64882
St. Paul, MN 55164-0882

Dear Ms. Simon,

Thank you for allowing us to review and offer feedback on the tentative plans to add incremental licensed beds at Regions Hospital in Saint Paul, Minnesota. The correspondence we received was not clear, however. The email requested feedback on a proposal to “add 30 licensed beds at Regions Hospital” thus increasing the number of beds from 71 to 101 beds at the existing inpatient psychiatric hospital for children and adolescents. The correspondence accompanying the email, however, requests feedback on “adding 45 licensed beds at Regions Hospital” which is expected to add five (5) inpatient mental health beds by the end of 2021 and 36 incremental licensed medical-surgical beds by the Spring of 2024.

Upon review of both of these proposals, Mayo Clinic Hospital – Rochester fully supports an endeavor of this nature for multiple reasons, including but not limited to the fact that Regions Hospital is a well-respected, credible provider in the Saint Paul metro area and aims to meet a vital and growing need for the patients within this market. Their credibility transcends multiple venues as they have actively participated in healthcare/mental health improvement efforts via multiple state, provider, and nonprofit organizations.

Given the ever-increasing patient demand for incremental medical-surgical and mental health beds throughout the state of Minnesota, the proposal to open incremental inpatient mental health beds is highly endorsed.

It is our hope that this feedback is helpful. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions/concerns.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. Kenneth Ackerman".

F. Kenneth Ackerman
Associate Administrator
Hospital Operations
Mayo Clinic Hospital - Rochester