Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

Fast Facts:
2016 Legislative Session

Upgrade security at Anoka-Metro Regional Treatment Center

Issue:

- Anoka-Metro Regional Treatment Center (AMRTC) is a 110-bed psychiatric hospital for patients who have multiple and complex conditions, have mental illness and face a criminal trial, or have serious behavioral issues.
- Beginning in 2014, the acuity of patients admitted to AMRTC has increased, in part due to increased admissions from jail.
- Serious injuries to both staff and patients have occurred as conditions at the facility have become more volatile.
- Safety issues create an environment that is not therapeutic for patients, make it difficult to recruit and retain staff, and has led to regulatory sanctions.

Proposal:

- The governor's capital budget recommends funding to renovate the Anoka facility to improve patient and staff safety and ensure staff are equipped to serve challenging patients.
- Changes include installing a facility-wide camera system that will allow monitoring from a central location and at each unit's nursing station, help deter acts of violence and property damage, and assist with investigations.
- It will also involve installation of personal duress alarm system sensors throughout patient care areas, and provide small transmitters to be carried by staff to provide faster emergency response.
- Other changes to include a computerized key control system and access control measures, and the enclosure of the nursing station on one unit.
- In addition, construction of courtyards on three residential units and improvement of existing courtyards on three other units will provide secure spaces for patients to calm down.

Benefits:

- Safer working and care environments for AMRTC staff and patients.
- Facility and staff are well-equipped to meet the demands of the changing patient population.

Fiscal impact:

- FY 2016: $2.25 million

Related information:

- Governor's bonding proposal on the Minnesota Management & Budget website: http://mn.gov/mmb/budget/capital-budget/
- Anoka-Metro Regional Treatment Center brochure: https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-5016-ENG (PDF)

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