



Improve safety, staffing, patient care and access at state-operated psychiatric hospitals

Issue:

- Minnesota continues to have waiting lists for people who need inpatient psychiatric care, especially for those with aggressive behaviors. The Minnesota Department of Human Services provides a safety net for people with this level of clinical complexity at the Anoka-Metro Regional Treatment Center (AMRTC) and seven Community Behavioral Health Hospitals (CBHH).
- In the past several years, these services have come under growing stress as funding and staffing levels have failed to keep up with an increasingly volatile client population. This has contributed to staff and client injuries, increased overtime and high staff turnover.
- Federal standards for care are not being met at AMRTC and the facility has been at risk of losing federal reimbursement through Medicare and Medicaid.
- The number of individuals charged with a crime who need competency restoration services — treatment in order to participate in their legal proceedings — is growing and using AMRTC beds that could more appropriately be used for people who need care in a psychiatric hospital setting.

Proposal:

- The governor's supplemental budget recommends creating a new competency restoration program in a locked community residential setting. The new program would be located in a building that is currently a state-operated chemical dependency treatment program in St. Peter. That chemical dependency program would move to the site of the CBHH in St. Peter.
- While there will be a loss of beds at the St. Peter CBHH, the other six CBHH sites will be staffed at their 16-bed capacity for a net gain of beds systemwide. Treatment hours for patients on nights and weekends will also increase.
- The proposal also would require counties to pay for a share of the cost for patients in the new competency restoration program and for those at a CBHH who are ready for discharge.
- Additionally, funding is provided to increase staffing at AMRTC and implement changes required by federal regulators.
- The recommendation also includes funding to provide tuition reimbursement to help recruit and retain professional clinical staff.

Benefits:

- Free up approximately 20 beds currently being used for competency restoration services at AMRTC.
- Increase the number of beds available at six CBHH sites statewide.
- Improve staffing to ensure compliance with quality standards, licensing and accreditation.
- Provide incentives to move patients who no longer need hospital care into other settings and free up beds for people who need them.
- Enhance the quality of treatment provided at state-operated facilities.

Number of people affected:

- Increase CBHH capacity: 12 beds
- Create new competency restoration service: 32 beds
- Free up space at AMRTC: 20 beds

Fiscal impact:

- FY 2017: \$28.127 million
- FY 2018: \$32.611 million
- FY 2019: \$32.044 million

Related information:

- Governor's Supplemental Budget Proposal, [Minnesota Management & Budget website, http://www.mn.gov/mmb/images/16-17-supplemental-agency-item.pdf](http://www.mn.gov/mmb/images/16-17-supplemental-agency-item.pdf)
- Information about Anoka-Metro Regional Treatment Center and Community Behavioral Health Hospitals on the DHS website, <http://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/adults/services/direct-care-treatment/>

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