



## Transition to community

This initiative seeks to create incentives and provide tools to move certain patients out of Minnesota Security Hospital and Anoka-Metro Regional Treatment Center. In many cases, less restrictive settings would support their progress in treatment, cost less and free space for incoming patients.

State law and the U.S. Supreme Court's *Olmstead* ruling require the department to serve people with behavioral health needs in the most integrated setting possible. Those who have been institutionalized, even for many years, can live in the community if the right services and support are available.

The difficulty in moving patients out of state institutions into community placements contributes to problems at the front end of the system. When barriers prevent patients from leaving state institutions when they no longer need hospital-level care, incoming patients who need immediate care end up waiting in inappropriate settings such as county jails and hospitals.

Currently, several factors make it difficult to place patients from state psychiatric institutions into more integrated community settings. Obstacles include an inadequate array of appropriate housing options and lack of county support.

This initiative addresses those obstacles in two main ways:

1. Counties are given new incentives to support the transition of patients into less restrictive community settings.
  - For patients who have advanced to the point where a transition to a more integrated setting would be appropriate, counties will be expected to pay a higher share of the treatment costs in state facilities.
  - This also applies to Minnesota Security Hospital patients whose custody level can appropriately be reduced.
  - This incentive aims to bring together the state and counties to find community settings for those patients.
2. The department aims to make services available to support community placements for patients transitioning out of Minnesota Security Hospital and Anoka-Metro Regional Treatment Center.
  - This includes multidisciplinary mental health teams, housing with mental health services, basic care and other services to enable patients to live in community-based settings with the necessary support system.

### Related information:

- Minnesota Management & Budget website: <http://www.mmb.state.mn.us/>