Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

Fast Facts:
2016 Legislative Session

Minnesota Security Hospital facility upgrades will improve safety

Issue:

- Minnesota Security Hospital provides treatment to people who are civilly committed as mentally ill and dangerous. In recent years, serious injuries to both staff and patients have occurred as conditions have become more volitile.
- 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.
- Outdated facilities, including narrow stairways and poor sightlines for staff to monitor activity, have contributed this situation.
- Proximity of Security Hospital facilities to the Minnesota Sex Offender Program (MSOP), which is located on the same campus, is also a safety concern. Security Hospital patients are vulnerable adults; most MSOP patients are not.
- At the same time, the number of MSOP clients who have been approved by the courts to live in Community Preparation Services on the St. Peter campus continues to grow. There is a need for more beds for these clients in later stages of treatment.

Proposal:

- The governor's capital budget recommends funding to renovate residential facilities at Security Hospital, to physically separate the two programs on campus, and to create needed space for MSOP. The first phase of this work began in 2014.
- The proposed work for Security Hospital involves remodeling four living units, reconstructing four split level bedroom wings into single story spaces, adding more transition housing, and renovating the rest of the original building to address safety and building code issues.
- In addition, three buildings would be remodeled to add beds and services for MSOP clients in Community Preparation Services. These buildings are in a different part of the campus than Security Hospital and would allow for separation of the two populations.

Benefits:

- Minnesota Security Hospital patients are served in a safer, more therapeutic treatment environment, reducing length of stay.
- Staff have safer working conditions.
- Vulnerable adults are separated from predatory populations.
- The lower campus has flexible capacity to meet MSOP program and bed space needs.

Fiscal impact:

- Minnesota Security Hospital renovation FY 2016: $70.255 million
- MSOP renovation FY 2016: $14.5 million

Related information:

- Governor's bonding proposal on the Minnesota Management & Budget website: http://mn.gov/mmb/budget/capital-budget/
- Minnesota Security Hospital Frequently Asked Questions: https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-6173-ENG (PDF)
- Minnesota Sex Offender Program Overview: https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-5939-ENG (PDF)

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