Direct Care and Treatment: Preserve and strengthen services for Minnesota’s most vulnerable people

Supporting Minnesotans with mental illness, chemical dependency and developmental disabilities as they strive to live full, integrated lives in their communities lies at the heart of DHS’ direct care and treatment facilities.

State-operated mental health treatment facilities, residential group homes and vocational services are the safety net for Minnesota’s most vulnerable people. They serve patients and clients with extraordinary conditions and needs who would not find appropriate services elsewhere, because private providers often lack the expertise, facilities and desire to serve them.

The Minnesota Sex Offender Program (MSOP) provides treatment to civilly committed sex offenders and prepares them for a successful transition to community life when treatment is complete and courts order their discharge. MSOP also provides essential supervision and monitoring to protect public safety once clients are placed in community settings.

Governor Tim Walz’s budget focuses on strengthening Minnesota’s safety-net system and providing adequate funding to ensure safe preparation, reintegration and supervision of civilly committed sex offenders.

Proposals:

To keep our safety net strong and communities safe, Governor Walz has advanced these proposals for the 2020-21 biennium:

- **Maintaining Community-Based Services.** The proposal provides an operational adjustment to continue residential and vocational services for over 1,000 people with disabilities. The programs continue to focus on serving more challenging clients, for which no other providers are willing or able to serve.

- **Increasing treatment capacity and simplifying funding for the Minnesota Specialty Health System.** DHS operates four Intensive Residential Treatment Services (IRTS) facilities located in Brainerd, Wadena, Willmar and St. Paul for people with mental illness, who may also have a co-occurring traumatic brain injury or other neurocognitive conditions. Currently, the facilities are budgeted to operate at an average of 12 treatment beds. The proposal allows two of the facilities to operate at its full 16-bed capacity. It also simplifies the funding structure, reducing needless complexities for their operation.

- **Keeping communities safe.** The proposal provides specific funding for community preparation services, as well as supervision and monitoring of civilly committed sex offenders who are provisionally discharged from the Minnesota Sex Offender Program (MSOP). Currently MSOP is covering these costs with one-time funds, which is not sustainable. In addition, the proposal would allow MSOP to charge counties 25 percent of the cost of care for clients that courts have provisionally discharged to live in communities under MSOP’s supervision.

mn.gov/dhs
Related information:

- Direct Care and Treatment webpage: http://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/adults/services/direct-care-treatment/
- Minnesota Sex Offender Program Overview: http://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/adults/services/direct-care-treatment/