FAST FACTS:
2019 Legislative Session

Increase treatment capacity at two residential facilities

Issues:

- 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 and other neurocognitive conditions.
- The IRTS programs are a vital part of the DHS care system, serving as a step-down from the Anoka-Metro Regional Treatment Center (AMRTC) and the network of six Community Behavioral Health Hospitals (CBHHs).
- The IRTS facilities provide community-based treatment for individuals who no longer need to be hospitalized, but still require some level of inpatient care and supervision as they transition gradually back to life in the community.
- Each IRTS facility is licensed to operate 16 beds. However, due to funding constraints, each site is currently operating at an average of 12 beds.
- The facilities are funded through different mechanisms, which adds needless complexity to their operations.

Proposal:

- Governor Tim Walz’s budget recommends increasing funding to allow two IRTS facilities to operate at its full 16-bed capacity.
- The proposal simplifies the funding of the programs.
- The proposal also provides a one-time transfer of $10 million to the general fund, as well as an additional $6 million in revenue to be deposited to the general fund each fiscal year.

Benefits:

- Operating two facilities at full bed capacity will increase available discharge locations for clients who need a residential level of care, freeing up beds in DHS-operated psychiatric facilities for those that need a hospital level of care.
- This proposal will also provide additional program funding to increase staffing ratios to better serve individuals, increase clinical efficacy, and provide regulatory required individualized care and treatment.
Fiscal impact:

- $16.4 million savings in FY 2020-21
- $3.4 million savings in FY 2022-23

Related information:

- Direct Care and Treatment webpage: [http://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/adults/services/direct-care-treatment/](http://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/adults/services/direct-care-treatment/)

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