

Provide therapeutic recreational space at the new psychiatric hospital for children and teens in Willmar

Issues:

- Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Services (CABHS) in Willmar provides inpatient psychiatric care for children ages 4 to 18. The hospital serves youth with complex mental illnesses and behavior disorders who cannot be treated in their home communities. Patients often have multiple diagnoses that range from brain and behavior disorders to psychiatric and traumatic stress conditions. For most patients, other treatments have been ineffective.
- Construction on a new 16-bed psychiatric hospital to replace the current outdated facility is underway and will be complete by summer of 2020. However, when the 2017 Legislature approved funding for the new hospital, the project did not include much-needed activity space.
- Recreation and play are vital parts of any child's physical, mental and emotional development. They're also key to effective treatment for the children admitted to the hospital. These patients need space to release pent-up energy, vent frustrations and to participate in constructive and calming activities that aid in their therapy. Lack of safe, dedicated recreational space can hamper effective treatment.

Proposal:

- The Governor's Local Jobs and Projects Plan recommends funding to design and construct a 4,100 square foot therapeutic recreational space with restrooms and other ancillary space. The project would include an indoor gymnasium and an outdoor playground. The funding would complete construction of the new hospital.

Benefits

- The new space will give patients the recreational outlets they need for all-around development; contribute to effective therapeutic mental health treatment; and help patients to learn and practice coping skills that can decrease their symptoms and improve their overall well-being.

Fiscal impact:

- CABHS large motor activity space, FY 2021: \$1.75 million.

Related information:

- Governor's Local Jobs and Projects Plan on the Minnesota Management and Budget website:
<https://mn.gov/mmb/budget/capital-budget/current/>
- Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Services webpage:
<https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/adults/services/direct-care-treatment/programs-services/child-and-adolescent-behavioral-health-services/child-adolescent-behavioral-health.jsp>

DHS Communications: February 2020