

ANOKA STATE HOSPITAL

FACT SHEET

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1. Who are the clients of Anoka State Hospital?
People who have established diagnoses of schizophrenia, manic-depression, organic brain disease, or chemical dependency and whose extreme vulnerability or dangerous behavior requires hospitalization for treatment and rehabilitation.

- II. Why are the private and county hospitals not used for these people?
They are. Over 60% of all people admitted to Anoka State Hospital for psychiatric treatment are being transferred from a community hospital psychiatry unit.

- III. Why not finish the course of treatment in the private or community hospital?
There are at least four reasons for this:
First, Anoka State Hospital's clients are receiving general assistance and medical assistance. They have no money or insurance for longer-stay in community hospitals. Second, community hospitals are more expensive. Metro hospitals cost from \$190 to \$290 per day; Anoka State Hospital costs \$84 per day. Third, the Legislature authorized reduced GAMC payments to private hospitals. Therefore more patients are sent to the Anoka State Hospital. Fourth, the private doctors, the county social workers, and the courts have determined that there is no alternative to the State Hospital to meet the patient's needs at this time. The job of Anoka State Hospital is to rehabilitate people and return them to community services.

- IV. Why is Anoka State Hospital needed in the Metro Area where there are so many community resources?
Because community resources do not serve people in their serious stages of psychiatric illness when they need extended hospital-based care. Short-term care is provided by community hospitals.

- V. Does this suggest that only the most severely ill people come to Anoka State Hospital?
Yes. People with lesser problems are cared for by the county and private social service and mental health agencies and short-stay hospitals.

- VI. Does Anoka State Hospital do any good for these severely ill people?
We believe so based upon these facts:
 - a. 2/3 of all patients discharged stay out of the State Hospital for more than one year, at least.
 - b. The hospital length of stay has been reduced by 50% during the last two years to an average of 4 1/2 months.
 - c. The hospital is taking care of 50% to 60% more people each year for the Metro Area than it did two years ago.
 - d. The County and Community experts say they are satisfied with the quality of care.

- VII. Does Anoka State Hospital have professional credibility in the Metro Area and in the hospital field?
Anoka's staff includes three board-certified full-time psychiatrists, one board-eligible psychiatrist, one board-certified family practice physician, specialist part-time consultants, full-time general doctors, fully qualified professional nurses, social workers, psychologists, rehabilitation specialists and other professionals and assistants.

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The hospital is managed by a hospital administrator who is a member of the American College of Hospital Administrators together with other managers with extensive graduate-level management training and experience.

The turn-over of staff at all levels is now quite low, ensuring the continuity of program development and relationships desired by the Governing Board.

Professional credibility is indicated by staff participation as faculty in several University programs and by accreditation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals which is expected this spring (83).

VIII. Is it true that all the county experts are predicting greater use of Anoka State Hospital?

Yes. At the recent meeting of the Mental Illness Program Advisory Committee, the Chemical Dependency Program Advisory Committee and the Community Board, all participants predicted even greater referrals to the State Hospital. Referrals and admissions are already 50 to 60% higher than two years ago.

IX. Should we close Anoka State Hospital and send these patients to outstate hospitals?

The State would need to build many more beds outstate to hold the patients. The critical mass of needed psychiatrists is not available outside the Metro Area. The State no longer wants patients to become hospital residents for the rest of their lives. Anoka State Hospital does not allow this to happen by requiring patients to be involved as actively as possible in treatment and rehabilitation programs.

X. Are there ways to save money and keep the good programs at Anoka State Hospital? Probably. First, the use of all state hospitals could be limited to severely ill people by using admissions criteria as does Anoka State Hospital and the private sector hospital system.

Second, a plan for State-provided services for the Metro Area which might include consolidating Anoka State Hospital and Oak Terrace Nursing Home can be considered. If both programs are located at the Anoka campus there could be both better programs and less cost per patient day (due to economies of scale).

XI. What is the highest-priority of the Anoka State Hospital Administration and Community Board?

The highest priority continues to be to ensure the physical safety of patients, staff and community through appropriate treatment programs carried out by adequate types and quantities of staff.

XII. What is the greatest concern facing the hospital?

All the progress and improvements made during the past 21/2 years might be reversed by budget cuts due to the State financial crisis.

XIII. What is needed?

We need a policy to protect essential public safety services such as Anoka State Hospital.

XIV. Beyond this current fiscal crisis what should be done?

Look at Oak Park Heights Prison as a model-concept for the new Anoka State Hospital.

A new metro facility with earth-sheltered, solar heated physical plant can be designed to meet the needs of the next twenty years and into the 21st Century.