

November 8, 2021

Re: Statement of Intent

Dear Commissioner Malcolm:

We are the Chief Operating Officer/Chief Nursing Executive and Chief Administrative Officer of Fairview Health Services ("Fairview"). As you know, Fairview is a nonprofit corporation providing health care services in Minnesota. Our care portfolio includes community hospitals, academic hospitals, primary and specialty care clinics, senior facilities, facilitated living centers, rehabilitation centers, home health care services, counseling, pharmacies, and benefit management services. Fairview offers compassionate care in a safe, inpatient setting for adults experiencing severe psychiatric problems and offers an array of specialized care options.

Therefore, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 144.553, we write to provide the Minnesota Department of Health with notice that Fairview and a joint venture partner intend to seek a license to operate an inpatient mental health hospital for adults to be located in the East Metro area of the Twin Cities. The proposed inpatient adult mental health hospital will be provided in conjunction with a world-class partner that is also experienced in mental health treatment and operations. The hospital will provide much needed access to mental health care for patients and their families in the East Metro and more broadly to patients across the greater Twin Cities area. The new hospital will replace, and add to, the services currently provided at St. Joseph's Hospital. Fairview and its joint venture partner for the new entity will seek approval for at least 120 inpatient mental health beds for the proposed inpatient adult mental health hospital.

As a health system and the state's largest provider of mental health services, we are dedicated to innovating across the continuum of mental health care services, including in our capacity for and approach to inpatient care. Our current inpatient beds go beyond our attributed population, yet we know experts have described the current state of mental health in the United States as a crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated the already-existing problem.¹ We know this crisis won't be solved with by any one hospital, but will take the concerted and coordinated efforts of health care providers, community partners and civic leaders to ensure that we meet the needs of our patients and communities into the future.

We are certain the Fairview and our joint venture partner can significantly help to address the mental health needs presently facing our state and we intend to do so at every level of care. Should your Department recommend and the Legislature grant an exception to the hospital construction moratorium, a new facility with inpatient mental health beds can be an important part of addressing this crisis, while contributing to a stronger system of mental health care in our state.

¹ 'Every day is an emergency': The pandemic is worsening psychiatric bed shortages nationwide (Dec. 23, 2020), available at <https://www.statnews.com/2020/12/23/mental-health-covid19-psychiatric-beds/> (noting that in Minnesota, "a mental health crisis residential stabilization facility was forced to temporarily shut down in September after an employee tested positive [for COVID].").

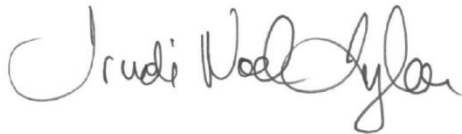


It is our understanding that the Minnesota Department of Health will publish notice in the State Register, and if no responses are received, will instruct Fairview to submit a plan under Minnesota Statutes Section 144.552. Fairview is prepared to submit a robust plan outlining the proposed hospital and will await further instruction from your office.

Sincerely,



Laura Reed
Chief Operating Officer and
Chief Nursing



Trudi Noel Trysla
Chief Administrative Officer | General Counsel