

Minnesota Department of Health

From: Brandon Griffin <bgriffin@thesannehfoundation.org>
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Subject: Sanneh Foundation Public Comment

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"My name is Brandon Griffin, Senior Vice President for The Sanneh Foundation, an organization which addresses the Social Determinants of Health to remove barriers to health & wellness including mental health support for families and individuals in the Twin Cities community. More specifically, In our work in fighting hunger insecurity, a large population of our food shelf and distribution participants are experiencing significant challenges related to mental health and homelessness.

In our work with Fairview at The Hub in Saint Paul, our organization's Nutritional Services team has partnered with the hospital and other innovative organizations to address systemic poverty in our community. Our organization currently utilizes a portion of the former emergency clinic and ambulance bay to receive, sort, and distribute food to thousands of families in the Twin Cities Metro every week. Without this space, this work would not be possible and we commend Fairview on their commitment to collaboration and creating authentic community partnerships. We are proud to be a partner in this work.

We know we are in the midst of a mental health crisis and need more access to more services across the continuum of care. Among other innovations across the continuum of care, our state needs more access to inpatient mental health care. We understand the need for more inpatient mental health beds means people get access to inpatient care faster, where they are stabilized and connected with the next best step in their care. As an organization that partners with direct service providers throughout the Twin Cities to address barriers to self-sufficiency, Fairview is a trusted leader and valued partner in meeting the mental health and addiction care needs in our community.

Together with Acadia Healthcare, a national leader in mental health and addiction care, a new mental health hospital will positively impact the availability and quality of inpatient mental health and addiction services in Minnesota. With a standalone, dedicated hospital, Fairview and Acadia will be able to serve all patients in a highly specialized environment and state-of-the-art facility. Thank you."

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SANNEH



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(he/him/his)

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