



November 14, 2016

Dr. Edward Ehlinger, Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Health
P.O. Box 64975
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164

RE: PrairieCare's Proposal to Add 21 Beds to its Psychiatric Hospital for Children and Adolescents in Brooklyn Park

Dear Commissioner Ehlinger:

I am writing to you on behalf of Maple Grove Hospital and our surrounding communities in support of PrairieCare's proposed 21 bed expansion of inpatient beds for children and adolescents. This proposal will increase their total number of beds from 50 to 71 at their Brooklyn Park facility.

This expansion will be a significant step towards addressing the shortage of psychiatric beds in the state and help treat those in psychiatric crisis that often end up boarding on medical units for days at a time or transferred far from home to receive care. Our state currently has inadequate capacity and a fragmented system for psychiatric care and PrairieCare's proposal will help address these shortcomings.

PrairieCare has established themselves as a premier psychiatric health system in the region offering a full continuum-of-care in psychiatry for all ages. They have continually demonstrated their ability to be a collaborative partner in the community, and are an ideal health system to be spearheading this expansion.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andy Cochrane
Chief Executive Officer

