

Alisha Simon
Minnesota Department of Health
Health Economics Program
PO Box 64882
St. Paul, MN 55164-0992

Transmitted via email

November 4, 2021

Dear Ms. Simon:

On behalf of Fairview Health Services, we appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the current public interest review process for adding inpatient mental health beds at Regions Hospital in St. Paul. We are supportive of the efforts to continue to increase mental health bed capacity in the Twin Cities. As the largest provider of inpatient mental health services in Minnesota, Fairview is committed to continuing to work with our hospital partners in making investments in the highly specialized inpatient mental health treatment. But just as importantly, we are committed to continuing to invest in upstream mental health treatment options that are so critical for patients and their families to ensure that hospitalization isn't their only treatment option.

The last eighteen months of the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the mental health challenges for adults and children across the country, and we are seeing those challenges play out every day in our schools, our workplaces, our clinics and our emergency rooms. We know many of these adults and families struggled well before the COVID-19 pandemic and will continue to do so into the future. The addition of inpatient mental health hospital bed capacity will help to solve some of these short term problems. But we need to ensure that long-term broad scaled investments continue to be made in our mental health system to ensure a robust continuum of mental health treatment options including crisis services, outpatient and inpatient treatment, EmPATH, transitional care services, intensive outpatient services and partial hospitalization programs are available when and where patients and families need them.

The entire team at Fairview Health Services looks forward to continuing to work with the Minnesota Department of Health and our provider and community partner colleagues to ensure we can best meet the mental health needs of all our patients and families across Minnesota.

Sincerely,



Beth Heinz

Service Line Executive, Mental Health & Addiction Services; Women & Children Service Lines

