

November 4, 2021



Alisha Simon, Health Economics Program
PO Box 64882
St. Paul, MN 55164-0882

RE: Minnesota Hospital Moratorium Exception – Regions Hospital

Dear Ms. Simon:

Hennepin Healthcare System has proudly served Minnesotans in need of critical mental health and recovery services for decades. Hennepin Healthcare offers 24/7 Acute Psychiatric Services (APS), partial hospitalization, day treatment and crisis respite services, as well as psychiatric consultations and outpatient therapies. Like many health systems, Hennepin Healthcare is experiencing significant pressures, placing programs at risk. We are supportive of the addition of psychiatric beds at Regions Hospital, however, we respectfully request your consideration of the following:

- All Minnesotans should be able to access these new beds and services, especially those on public programs. **We request that Regions Hospital collect and reports the percentage of indigent care and the numbers of those they serve on public programs in their psychiatric services.**
- Hennepin Healthcare serves a disproportionate number of state committed patients in our psychiatric services, and has had ongoing challenges in transitioning these patients into psychiatric state support when they are not appropriate for our hospital setting. **We request that Regions hospital share in supporting state committed patients, especially now that the number of Regions inpatient psychiatric beds will exceed the number of Hennepin Healthcare inpatient psychiatric beds.**
- Like all health systems, we are experiencing staffing challenges. Competing with other systems whom have a greater commercial insurance source on the salaries they are able to pay their workforce is a significant challenge for our safety-net system. **We ask that the state takes this imbalance into consideration and helps to ensure our safety-net system is able to staff to an adequate level to maintain the inpatient services that the state relies on to care for Medicaid patients.**
- We train over half the state's doctors through our Graduate Medical Education (GME) residency program, preparing these learners for other health systems, like Regions hospital. Residents rotate through our psychiatric care where we see a disproportionate share of people with complex risk factors. **We hope to collaborate with the state and Regions hospital to ensure the distribution of future GME positions will maintain the financial support needed for these residency positions at Hennepin Healthcare.**

Hennepin Healthcare System supports adding more mental health beds in Minnesota in an equitable manner that does not place further pressure on our safety-net system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer DeCubellis".

Jennifer DeCubellis
Chief Executive Officer
Hennepin Healthcare System