



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

DHS Initiative: 2013 Legislative Session

Transition to community

Patients who are ready for transition to the community from Minnesota Security Hospital and Anoka-Metro Regional Treatment Center will benefit from changes proposed by Gov. Mark Dayton and approved by the Minnesota Legislature. Legislation passed this year provides \$8.2 million in new money to strengthen community placement options for Minnesotans with challenging mental health needs. Lawmakers also granted the authority to spend \$2 million in existing funds to support these patients' transitions.

Community placement with the right supports can provide patients with a successful transition following treatment. It can also cost less and assure that we are using highly specialized treatment facilities for people who need a higher level of care and treatment. In addition, state law and the U.S. Supreme Court's *Olmstead* ruling require the department to serve people with disabilities in the most integrated setting possible. Currently, several factors make it difficult to transition patients from state psychiatric institutions to appropriate outpatient treatment services. Obstacles include an inadequate array of stable and affordable housing options and the need for specialized, outpatient mental health treatment.

The 2013 legislation addresses those obstacles in two main ways:

1. Counties and the Department of Human Services are given new incentives to support the transition of patients into less restrictive community settings.
 - For patients who have advanced to the point where a transition to a more integrated setting would be appropriate, counties will be expected to pay a higher share of the treatment costs in state facilities.
 - This also applies to Minnesota Security Hospital patients whose custody level can appropriately be reduced.
 - This incentive aims to bring together the state and counties to find housing and treatment services in the community for those patients.
2. The department aims to make services available to support community placements for patients transitioning out of Minnesota Security Hospital and Anoka-Metro Regional Treatment Center.
 - This includes multidisciplinary mental health teams, housing with mental health services, basic care and other services to enable people to live in community-based settings with the necessary support system.
 - The new spending authority allows the department to support transitions by purchasing one-time items, such as movement-tracking ankle bracelets, and funding mental health specialty treatment services.

Related information:

- Omnibus Health and Human Services bill: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/?id=108&doctype=Chapter&type=0&year=2013>
- DHS fact sheet page: <http://mn.gov/dhs/media/fact-sheets/>

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