

## Direct Care and Treatment: Resources for quality and safety

During the 2017 session, Minnesota made crucial investments to reinforce our safety-net services in mental health facilities for adults and children, including the Minnesota Security Hospital, Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Services (CABHS) and Anoka-Metro Regional Treatment Center. Changes also helped to ensure financial stability at state-run group homes and vocational programs for people with disabilities.

Enhancing the therapeutic atmosphere, improving safety and security, and preserving access to care and treatment are priorities at Minnesota's state-operated facilities for people with mental illnesses and physical and intellectual disabilities.

Each year, hospitals, group homes, and other facilities operated by the Minnesota Department of Human Services treat and care for more than 12,000 individuals who are mentally ill, disabled or chemically dependent. The patients and clients have complex conditions and sometimes volatile behavior. Because of these challenges, other community providers cannot or will not serve them.

### 2017 legislation

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**Minnesota Security Hospital expansion and renovation.** New and renovated facilities will provide a safer and more therapeutic environment for patients and staff. The second phase of this project on the Security Hospital campus in St. Peter will include major remodeling of 100,000 square feet of existing space and new construction of another 87,000 square feet. Four living units will be remodeled; four split-level bedroom wings will be razed and reconstructed into single-story spaces; new acute care and transition housing will be added; and other areas of the facility will be brought up to current building codes. Work is expected to begin this fall. The first phase of construction, a \$56.3 million project, was completed in January 2017. *SFY 2018: \$70.2 million*

**More staff at Minnesota Security Hospital.** This investment will relieve pressure with the hiring of about 150 full-time equivalent positions over the next three years. Security Hospital has been understaffed compared to similar facilities in other states. A larger, more flexible staffing pool will reduce overtime costs, improve employee schedules and reduce staff turnover. Patient programming will be extended to evenings and weekends, contributing to safety and improved treatment outcomes. Patients committed by courts as mentally ill and dangerous have complex mental health conditions, often compounded by chemical dependency, cognitive disabilities and other significant medical issues. A large team of highly trained clinicians and skilled staff is needed to treat them. *SFY 2018-19: \$22.8 million; SFY 2020-21: \$35.3 million.*

**Residential and vocational services for vulnerable people with disabilities.** State-run group homes and vocational programs for people with disabilities have been operating at a financial loss because the current rate system does not cover the actual cost of care. These programs serve about 1,100 clients at 150 sites statewide, giving priority to clients with complex or challenging behaviors whose needs cannot be met in the private sector. These investments will offset the shortfall and provide much-needed stability while efforts to restructure the programs continue. The legislation also covers startup expenses to open up to 10 new group homes a year. *SFY 2018-19: \$10.3 million; SFY 2020-21: \$3.6 million.*

**New mental health hospital for children and teens.** Capital investment funds will pay to design and build a new 16-bed psychiatric hospital for children, allowing the Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Services (CABHS) program in Willmar to serve many more children while providing greater safety and a more therapeutic treatment environment. A flexible design will create opportunities to group patients in units appropriate to their ages and conditions. CABHS serves children with complex mental health conditions including autism spectrum disorder and fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. The current outdated facility has limited admissions to a handful of patients at a time, resulting in long waiting lists and forcing some children to seek treatment in other states. *SFY 2018: \$7.5 million*

**Funding to continue operating in the current CABHS facility.** CABHS will continue to operate in its current facility until the new hospital opens. Additional funding will cover the cost of leasing the current space for another two years. *SFY 2018-19: \$896,000*

**Safety upgrades at Anoka-Metro Regional Treatment Center.** New investments will make the facility safer for patients and staff and better equip staff to care for patients. Bonding will pay to install a facilitywide camera system so employees can monitor units from a central location and at nursing stations. A personal duress alarm system will allow staff to signal for help in emergencies. Other upgrades also include a computerized key control system and secure outdoor activity areas for patients. This 110-bed psychiatric hospital treats patients with a variety of severe and complex mental health and behavioral disorders. The patient population has become more difficult to manage over the past few years, in part because of a high percentage of patients admitted from jails. *SFY 2018: \$2.25 million*