



**Minnesota Department of Human Services**  
**Elmer L. Andersen Building**  
**Commissioner Jodi Harpstead**  
**Post Office Box 64998**  
**St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0998**

December 20, 2019

Senator David Senjem  
Chair, Senate Capital Investment  
95 University Avenue West  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Tina Liebling  
Chair, House Health and Human Services Finance  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Mary Murphy  
Chair, House Capital Investment  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Rena Moran  
Chair, House Health and Human Services Policy  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Jim Abeler  
Chair, Senate HHS Reform Finance and Policy  
95 University Avenue West  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Mental Health Crisis Facilities Grant Program

Dear Legislators:

I am writing to provide you with an update on the Behavioral Health Crisis Facilities Grants program that was established by the 2018 legislature.

There were 12 applicants for the grants and, to date, we have executed contracts with two of those applicants – the City of Buhl and Olmsted County. The two contracts that have been executed are now considered public data and enclosed with this letter are details about those projects.

We are in the contracting phase with eight additional applicants. Of those, four projects have submitted all the required materials for DHS' review as well as use/lease agreements for Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) approval. We expect these contracts will be finalized by January 2020 with construction planned to start in the spring of 2020. The remaining four projects are still working on site selection/layout, funding, legal descriptions, and programming aspects. Once contracts are executed for each of these outstanding projects, we will send you all an update on additional details.

I also want to provide some context about why these grants are taking time to implement. At the time the RFP closed and proposals were reviewed, the two applicants we have executed contracts with were much further ahead with site and program planning. The remaining projects were in the early stages of

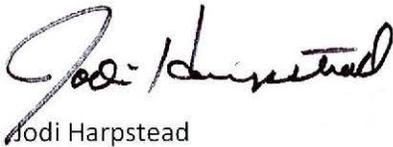
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project development. Minnesota statute 16A.695 requires each project to assure that their site and the use of that site meet the full requirements of a state General Obligation (GO) bond funded project including, but not limited to, leases, management contracts, grant agreements and the requirement to secure all necessary financing for a project. MMB conducts this review to verify compliance with state law.

That said, I want to recognize the pressing need for these facilities and reiterate my commitment to making sure we do everything we can to get these programs up and running as quickly as possible while still meeting all of the obligations we have to assure the projects are being developed in compliance with state law. I will be sure that our agency provides updates as additional projects are finalized and the information about them becomes public data.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jodi Harpstead". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jodi Harpstead  
Commissioner

Enc.

## Behavioral Health Crisis Facility Grants – December 2019

### City of Buhl, St. Louis County

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The city of Buhl received a \$37,000 grant for a predesign project focused on architect and project consultant services related to determining the feasibility of transitioning the Buhl school into another use. The primary objective for this project was to provide much needed health services to the City of Buhl and surrounding area. Further, fifteen school districts in the region have been identified with student mental health issues and care as the number one priority.

The City of Buhl had proposed to partner with North Homes Children and Family Services as well as state, municipal, and regional stakeholders in order to develop a continuum dedicated to caring children, adults, and families in crises. Renovation of the Buhl School would allow for programs to be available in an integrated services center. Mental health services would include a Community Mental Health Center, Stabilization/Evaluation Unit and a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF).

The Community Mental Health Center would serve the public as well as families of those temporarily residing in the Stabilization/Assessment Units or the Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF). Outpatient services may include individual, family, and group counseling, psychological testing; and other mental health services.

A Stabilization/Evaluation Unit for youth experiencing mental health and/or child welfare trauma would also be located on the main floor with a thirteen-bed adolescent boy's wing and a thirteen-bed adolescent girl's wing. The Stabilization/Assessment Unit acts as an emergent behavioral healthcare alternative by providing and early action, therapeutic response, and valuable support in and informed environment.

The Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) would include two fifteen-bed male units and two fifteen-bed female units to meet the needs of many youth experiencing significant mental challenges, wherein their mental health treatment requires a more intensive level of care.

Programs and Services provided through the Community Health Clinic, Evaluation and Stabilization Unit and Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility would include:

- Crises Counseling
- Out-patient Therapy
- In-Patient Therapy
- Family Therapy
- Out-patient Chemical Dependency Treatment
- Diagnostic Assessments
- Rule 25 Assessments
- Psychiatric Assessments
- Medication Management
- Supervised Visitation (community)
- Full day education
- Comprehensive 35 day evaluation
- Health and Wellness Assessment
- Equine Therapy
- Trauma informed care
- Access to the resources indicated above individualized care planning
- Crises Counseling and Mediation

No service provider was identified as this was a pre-design project.

## Olmsted County

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Olmsted County has been awarded a \$5 million grant for the predesign, design, and build of the Southern Minnesota Regional Crisis Center to provide a continuum of behavioral health services for adults, children, and families experiencing a mental health crisis. The facility will be located on land owned by Olmsted County at the Olmsted County Health, Housing, and Human Services campus in Rochester and will provide 16 single room units for residential stabilization in which individuals will have up to 10 days to stabilize in a safe environment. The services will be available around the clock to individuals in 10 Southeast Minnesota Counties: Dodge, Fillmore, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca, and Winona.

### **Target Population:**

The Crisis Center aims to provide a “no wrong door” continuum of mental health services to anyone seeking help during a mental health crisis. This inclusive mental health center will be open to individuals of all ages, those living with mental illness, co-occurring disorders, substance use disorders, and cognitive challenges. This includes adults and children with mental health needs who are experiencing a reduction in functioning and/or dysregulation of emotions and/or behaviors will be served through the crisis center. Their mental health recovery will be aided through de-escalation, skill development, crisis planning, observation, stabilization and/or the need to bridge services if resources are not currently available in the community.

The center will not be equipped to handle all levels of care. If an individual is aggressive to the point of needing physical restraints or medications in order to be stabilized within 24 hours of being seen, other services may be necessary before coming to the center. If the individual has needs related to substance use and the individual is highly intoxicated, that person may be referred to other community resources until they are able to engage in mental health crisis services.

### **Services:**

The services will include well trained crisis staff with a strong focus on person-centered planning and care coordination. They will continually work with staff and regional providers to schedule the necessary services so individuals can be successful upon discharge. The center will allow regional partners access to provide services that are not offered directly through the center and will develop a strong relationship with mobile crisis teams to respond in communities.

A rapid access service schedule will also be included for those that do not have established care providers. This will include, but is not limited to the following services:

- Psychiatric assessments
- Peer-support; individual and group
- Psychotherapy
- Psychoeducation
- Diagnostic assessments

### **Timeline:**

Olmsted County is in the process of finalizing the pre-design steps and anticipates construction to begin in spring of 2020 with an anticipated opening date of spring 2021. Based on the existing resources and expertise of the selected service provider, a phased launch plan will be established expanding into a full-service menu including residential stabilization services and rapid access to outpatient services for adults and children. The Crisis Center

is looking to better integrate and support our mobile crisis teams through expanding the number of services that can be accessed around the clock by individuals experiencing a crisis.

The Crisis Center anticipates the following services to begin first quarter of 2021 with a minimum of the following core services to be offered:

- Around the clock access to Crisis Assessment, Intervention, and Stabilization
- Peer-support
- Real-time Care Coordination
- Resource Hub for Behavioral Health Services
- Psychiatric Services
- Residential Crisis Services
- Rapid Access Outpatient Services