

Finishing renovation of Security Hospital will improve safety

Issue:

- Minnesota Security Hospital provides treatment to people who are civilly committed as mentally ill and dangerous. In recent years, there have been serious injuries to both employees and patients as conditions became more volatile.
- These safety issues interfered with the therapeutic environment for patients, made it difficult to recruit and retain employees, and led to regulatory sanctions.
- Outdated design of existing facilities, such as narrow stairways and lack of sightlines for staff to monitor activity, has contributed to these issues.
- The proximity of Security Hospital facilities to the Minnesota Sex Offender Program (MSOP) on the same campus in St. Peter raises additional safety concerns. Security Hospital patients are vulnerable adults, while most MSOP patients are predatory offenders.

Proposal:

- The governor's capital budget recommends funding to complete the renovation of Security Hospital while completing the physical separation of the program from MSOP. The first phase of this work began in 2014.
- The proposed work includes remodeling four living units, reconstructing four split-level bedroom wings into single-story spaces, adding more acute care and transition housing, and renovating the remaining parts of the original building to address safety issues and bring it into compliance with building codes.
- This second phase of construction will complete Minnesota Security Hospital's renovation, after the first phase was funded with \$56.3 million in bonding funds and completed in January 2017.

Benefits

- Minnesota Security Hospital patients will be served in a safer, more therapeutic environment, and some will be able to complete treatment more quickly.
- Staff will have safer working conditions.
- Vulnerable adults will be separated from predatory offenders.

Fiscal impact:

- Minnesota Security Hospital renovation FY 2017: \$70.255 million

Related information:

- Governor's bonding proposal on the Minnesota Management and Budget website:
<http://mn.gov/mmb/budget/capital-budget/>
- Forensic Services brochure: <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-5200-ENG>

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