



A member of Mercy Health Network

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Mercy seeks approval to build new behavioral health hospital

DES MOINES, Iowa – Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines has filed a Certificate of Need application with the State of Iowa requesting approval to construct a 100-bed freestanding inpatient behavioral health hospital in Polk County. The proposed facility would serve children, adolescents, adults and seniors experiencing acute behavioral health issues. Medical treatment at this facility will concentrate on stabilizing patients so they are able to transition seamlessly into the care of outpatient community providers or be integrated into a home environment.

“As demand for behavioral health services in our community has increased, the number of patients in need of treatment has exceeded our current capacity,” said Mary Thompson, director of behavioral health services at Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines. “Patients and their families frequently experience unacceptably long waits for care and sometimes must travel hundreds of miles across the state, or even out of the state, to find care. The construction of a new facility is needed to address the current need for inpatient behavioral health care and continue providing these vital services well into the future.”

The new hospital will be owned and operated through a joint venture organization created by Mercy and Universal Health Services (UHS), one of the largest health care management companies in the United States. UHS operates more than 300 behavioral health hospitals in the United States and the United Kingdom. UHS has substantial experience and expertise in the field of behavioral health care that will enhance the level of care provided to patients.

The proposed behavioral health hospital will offer inpatient and intensive outpatient services. It will also provide treatment through existing Mercy behavioral health programs to ensure continuity and alignment across the proposed behavioral health system of care. Mercy’s existing behavioral health units – including an 18-bed adult unit and a 16-bed child/adolescent unit – will remain on the downtown Des Moines Mercy campus and be operated by the joint venture.

“By improving access to essential behavioral health services, we have a unique opportunity to transform the way our patients receive care through focused case management and the implementation of evidence-based treatments,” said Sasha Khosravi, D.O., medical director, Mercy Behavioral Health. “Expanding our facilities will give us the resources we need to develop superior clinical protocols and clinical programming customized to each patient’s individual needs, ensuring the most acute patients are receiving the highest quality treatment possible.”

The proposed location for the behavioral health hospital is 1500 NW 114th Street in Clive, a site adjacent to the Mercy West clinic building and across the street from the newly constructed Mercy Rehabilitation Hospital. The proposed hospital, estimated to cost \$5.5 million, would be an approximately 73,300-square-foot structure with a one-story clinical and support services area and a three-story bed unit.

If the proposal is approved without changes, construction could begin as early as April 2019.

Members of the media are invited to ask additional questions about this project on Thursday, May 31, from 9:30 -10:30 a.m., during a media availability at Mercy Medical Center – West Lakes, located at 1755 59th Place in West Des Moines. Parking is available in the lot north of the main entrance. When you arrive, use the main entrance, then proceed down the stairs and to the right toward the Garden Room. Please contact Gregg Lagan at (515) 490-6636 if you plan to attend.

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About Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines

Mercy operates four not-for-profit, Catholic hospital campuses, with a total of 875 beds, along with more than 20 additional facilities that house more than 50 primary care, pediatric, internal medicine and specialty clinics. Founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1893, Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines is the longest continually operating hospital in Des Moines and is also one of the largest employers in the state – with more than 7,000 employees and a medical staff of more than 1,000 physicians and allied health associates. Mercy Medical Center–Des Moines is a member of Mercy Health Network and is a part of Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI), a national nonprofit health organization with headquarters in Englewood, Colo. The faith-based system operates in 18 states and includes 99 hospitals and multiple other facilities and services.