



## Briefing Memorandum

Date: August 5, 2021

Subject: The Crisis Care Center at the Huntsman Mental Health Institute (HMHI) Campus of Hope

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### **SUMMARY**

In May 2021, the Salt Lake County Council approved a land donation of approximately 5 acres to the University of Utah to construct a crisis receiving center which will begin construction this winter at 3300 South and 1000 West. The University purchased four privately owned adjacent lots thereby increasing the campus to nearly 9 acres.

Based on further discussions with HMHI we are recommending the addition of a third floor for expanded services including clinic space for a new geriatric partial hospital<sup>1</sup> as well as space to move the Recovery Works Intensive Outpatient Program, the Bridge Clinic, and the Recovery Clinic to a more centralized location. This treatment is critical given that drug overdoses are the leading cause of injury death in Utah, outpacing deaths due to firearms, falls and motor vehicle crashes. Ten Utah adults die each week from drug overdose; eight of which are a result of opioids; and four due to prescription opioids, specifically. Utah is particularly affected by prescription opioids, which are responsible for 41% of the unintentional and undetermined drug poisoning deaths in the state (Utah Dept. of Health).

The construction cost for a third floor is \$10M. We request Salt Lake County provide one-time funding of \$5M from the County Operational Reserve Account (CORA) in Behavioral Health. HMHI has a commitment from a private donor for the other \$5M. All the programs will be financially sustainable from an operations perspective. No additional funding, operational or otherwise, will be requested from the county.

### **IMPACT**

The addition of a third floor would allow HMHI to move its current Recovery Works Intensive Outpatient Program, the Bridge Clinic and the Recovery Clinic to the new location thereby providing a more central access point for patients and allow for easier transportation to treatment. Also, the volume of patients is expected to increase due to referrals from the Crisis Receiving Center.

- The Recovery Clinic uses a combination of medication management and therapy to support patients in their recovery journey. The Bridge Clinic allows patients to start Suboxone Treatment for opioid and other substance addiction in the Receiving Center or University of Utah Emergency Department, follow-up in the HMHI clinic, and then be referred to other community

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<sup>1</sup> Partial hospitalization programs — also called day programs — provide intensive treatment for behavioral health issues without requiring an overnight stay and offer more time in treatment than a standard outpatient program.

mental health providers. The Bridge Clinic partners with Utah Support Advocates for Recovery Awareness (USARA) to provide peer recovery coaches.

- Patients in the Recovery Works Intensive Outpatient Program work in a group therapy setting four times a week for 8-10 weeks. Patients work with staff to establish treatment goals and undergo weekly drug testing to support sobriety. HMHI estimates it could double the number of patients served by adding an afternoon program to its existing evening program.

All of these programs are staffed by Psychiatrists and Advanced-Practice clinicians who specialize in addiction psychiatry, Addiction Fellows and Senior Residents, Therapists, Medical Assistants, and Case Managers. The majority of current patients are from Salt Lake County.

### **ADDITIONAL BENEFITS**

Relocation of the outpatient programs would make space available to expand the HMHI Kidstar Day Treatment Program. Kidstar is an 8-week program of daily treatment for children 5-12 years of age. The program provides treatment for a range of mental health issues and resolves family issues. The treatment team includes board certified child/adolescent psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, expressive therapists and an education specialist.

This treatment is critical because Salt Lake County has a shortage of child psychiatrists and few inpatient beds. Kidstar allows children to stay out of the hospital while treating issues that outpatient providers cannot manage. The majority of patients are Salt Lake County residents. Kidstar expansion would allow HMHI to double the patient volume and decrease wait times for this high-demand program.

In addition to moving the programs outlined above, HMHI would expand geriatric programming. There is a dearth of geriatric psychiatric services in the state of Utah and with an aging population, it is vital to develop a comprehensive continuum of geriatric psychiatric services. The third floor would provide space for a geriatric partial hospital, intensive outpatient program and a weekly alumni group. These programs have been found to be effective in treating substance use disorders, among many other mental illnesses. These services would complement and expand inpatient and outpatient geriatric services.

The third floor would also be the site of a free legal clinic that is a collaboration with the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law. This clinic will provide legal services for patients treated by the Crisis Receiving Center and its affiliated programs. Space on the third floor will also be used as a location for intensive case management services for the Crisis Receiving Center as well as the home for the interdisciplinary training and internship programs in social work, nursing, physician assistants, psychology and peer-support specialists.

### **REQUEST**

Approval by Salt Lake County Council to provide HMHI \$5M CORA funds for construction of a third floor at the Crisis Care Center; August 17 or August 24 Council meeting.