

Removing systemic barriers for people with complex support needs who are stuck in hospitals

The proposal will improve outcomes for kids and adults who are stuck in hospitals and not getting the care they need to thrive at home and in their communities.

Challenge

Hospitals and health systems struggle to discharge people with complex, high-acuity needs to appropriate settings and to provide the services and supports people need. Significant delays in discharges affect children and adults with intellectual developmental disabilities, behaviors labeled as disruptive or aggressive, complex trauma and physical health complexities. Spending long stretches in emergency departments due to the lack of appropriate settings and care leads people's conditions to worsen and makes it more difficult to find providers who are willing to serve them.

Overcrowding and complications related to disruptive behaviors for children and adults in hospitals have a negative impact on the quality of life for patients and their families.

Proposal

Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan recommend multiple strategies to address systemic barriers for people with disabilities and complex support needs.

Strategies include allowing disability waiver services in hospitals, supporting people with high support needs who receive Elderly Waiver services, creating a vulnerable adult/developmental disability case management benefit for Tribal nations, addressing the backlog of MnCHOICES assessments, and adding transition planning as a service under the Alternative Care program.

The proposal will improve outcomes for children and adults who are stuck in hospitals and not getting the care they need to live and thrive at home or in the community.

Why It's Important

The current acute-care backlog affects people and providers across the acute and long-term care system. Youth stuck in hospitals report feeling desperate, isolated and imprisoned. The most common barrier to finding an appropriate discharge setting is the complexity of the patient's support needs.

Minnesota's ongoing workforce crisis compounds the challenges of discharging patients, particularly to post-acute care settings. The state has a severe shortage of mental health and long-term care professionals to meet the needs of people and families.

This proposal could help people with disabilities who receive long-term care services and supports by reducing the likelihood of hospitalization and the potential length of a hospital stay.

For More Information

Governor's budget page: [Acute Care Transitions for People with Disabilities and Complex Health Conditions \(PDF\)](#)