

MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCY CENTER

A NEW FACILITY COMING TO THE HEART OF MILWAUKEE FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS EXPERIENCING PSYCHIATRIC CRISIS

A new **Mental Health Emergency Center** is being developed through a joint venture between the Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division and the area's four health systems: Advocate Aurora Health, Ascension Wisconsin, Children's Wisconsin and Froedtert Health. Just one component in the broader array of mental health services in Milwaukee County, *it aims to serve as a national model for crisis care that is patient-centered, recovery-oriented, and culturally informed.*

Scope of Services

- Targeted to open in early 2022, the center will offer **24/7** crisis mental health **assessment, stabilization, treatment, and transition care management** for children, adolescents and adults.
- Intended to serve individuals of all ages, the majority of patients seeking care will arrive voluntarily. There will be a **separate treatment area for child and adolescent patients**, as well as a separate entrance for adults arriving via law enforcement.
- For patients admitted involuntarily, the center will be a therapeutic environment designed to facilitate de-escalation and the **quick transfer from law enforcement personnel** to care provided by qualified behavioral health professionals.
- The emergency center will have 4 adult inpatient beds and 2 adult observation beds. **The anticipated stay for outpatient emergency cases is 4 to 23 hours and inpatient adults from 1 to 4 days – with the goal for all patients to receive timely treatment and transfer to the appropriate level of care** that may include psychiatric inpatient or community-based outpatient treatment.
- There will be no child/adolescent inpatient beds in the new center, with **prompt transfer to pediatric mental health settings.**

Community Need

About 1 in 5 individuals experience mental illness in their lifetime and mental health resources have been a top need identified in local community health assessments for many years.

Since 2010 significant input from consumers, community partners, advocates, and health care providers has helped shape the redesign of mental health services in Milwaukee County.

The new Mental Health Emergency Center is the next major milestone in our community's journey toward holistic, decriminalized, de-stigmatized, and equitable mental health care.

Community Access

The proposed site for the center is on land currently owned by Milwaukee County – between 12th and 13th streets, north of Walnut.

This location is served by public transportation and is adjacent to the freeway, ensuring ready access for those in need of care, as well as for county-wide law enforcement personnel

Until the Mental Health Emergency Center is operational, the Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division will continue to provide emergency mental health care to patients at its Psychiatric Crisis Services (PCS) center in Wauwatosa.

Currently, 93% of the patient visits to PCS originate from the City of Milwaukee and 70% of patients served by PCS live in close proximity to the new center's proposed location.

JOINT VENTURE

The center is being developed by and will be operated as a **joint venture between Milwaukee County** Department of Health and Human Services and Milwaukee’s four health systems: **Advocate Aurora Health, Ascension Wisconsin, Children’s Wisconsin, and Froedtert Health.**

Start-up capital for the new center is projected to be \$18 million, with the County covering 50% of those costs and the health systems covering the other half. Once open, the center is expected to deliver care with an **operating loss of \$10- \$12 million annually.** Operating shortfalls will be similarly split 50/50 between the County and the health systems.

Advocate Aurora Health will serve as the manager of the center and will be responsible for the employment of the physicians and staff, as well as the day-to-day operations under the direction of the joint venture’s Board of Directors. As the largest provider of behavioral and mental health services in the State of Wisconsin, Advocate Aurora Health will bring significant clinical and patient service expertise to the delivery of care.

LOCAL IMPACT

The new facility will serve as an ‘anchor institution’ in the surrounding neighborhood, providing **increased safety, revitalization, and economic benefit.**

Once open, the center will **employ about 70 full-time equivalent staff, including peer supports** and will serve as a training center for psychiatric medical residents, as well as offer other professional educational opportunities.

During construction, dozens of jobs will be created through the project’s construction firms, CG Schmidt, and minority owned JCP Construction.

EXTERIOR DESIGN



Entry Drive View from N. 12th Street



Milwaukee Health Care Partnership | Mental Health Emergency Center

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EXTERIOR PREVIEW | DRAFT

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