

Dakota County 2023 Integrative Health Care Unit for Incarcerated People



VI-2023

Roughly 25 percent of people incarcerated in the Dakota County Law Enforcement Center suffer from serious health conditions requiring special care. Studies show that providing this specialized care improves health during and after incarceration and improves public safety. While the county provides this care, the proposed Integrative Health Care Unit would dramatically enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of this care, improving health outcomes and serving as a model for facilities across Minnesota and the country.

SPECIALIZED CARE

A 2020 study carefully developed and recommended the Integrative Health Care Unit's elements. Up to 30 incarcerated people with behavioral, mental and physical health needs can be treated in the unit. This will provide increased efficiency for county staffing and contracted medical vendors, greater therapeutic housing, and dedicated resources in one location to best support the overall wellness of those being treated. The Integrative Health Care Unit will also separate those who are vulnerable from the generation population and provide greater attention to their physical health limits, substance use disorders or mental health needs.

REGIONAL ASSET

The Integrative Health Care Unit will be a regional asset. On a typical day, more than 60 percent of people incarcerated in Dakota County are nonresidents. Since support for incarcerated people with specialized health needs has been a primary focus of the Dakota County Sheriff's Office for many years, the county is uniquely positioned to lead this effort. The Sheriff's Office already enjoys strong partnerships with community and social services, medical and mental health providers, and other community providers and organizations.

New, dedicated space would allow Dakota County to meet the challenges of inmates needing special care.



The issue: Roughly 25 percent of people incarcerated in the Dakota County Law Enforcement Center, who come from the entire metro area, have serious health needs that should be addressed while they are incarcerated. The Sheriff's Office provides services, but a more effective model in new, dedicated space would significantly improve the efficiency of that care.

The solution: Fund the design and construction of the Dakota County Integrative Health Care Unit to serve 30 inmates with physical, mental or behavioral health needs requiring specialized care.

State request: \$15 million

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