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Jen Holper

952-334-7755

[jholper@prairie-care.com](mailto:jholper@prairie-care.com)

[www.prairie-care.com](http://www.prairie-care.com)



**New facility to offer lifesaving hope for families**

*State of the art facility designed to provide healing environment for youth experiencing psychiatric crises*

Brooklyn Park is now home to Minnesota's only privately operated child and adolescent psychiatric specialty hospital. PrairieCare's new 75,000 square foot state of the art facility was designed to be a healing environment for youth experiencing acute psychiatric crises. Comprised of six inpatient units, including two psychiatric intensive care units, the facility can accommodate up to 50 youth needing inpatient psychiatric hospitalization.

"We frequently are forced to turn patients away because our facility is at capacity. Patients in crisis then wait in emergency departments around the state. The system is strained, leaving families without choice. When a bed opens up they take it, even if it sometimes means driving four hours or more for their child to receive treatment. Our increased capacity means more children and adolescents will be able to get mental health treatment close to home," says Dr. Joel Oberstar, PrairieCare's CEO.

An open house will be held at PrairieCare at 9400 Zane Avenue in Brooklyn Park on Tuesday, September 1, 2015 from 3 to 7 PM, including facility tours and a program with ribbon cutting ceremony at 3:15 PM. Mental health professionals, state and federal officials, and Brooklyn Park community leaders are all invited to attend. The public is also welcome.

In response to the tremendous unmet need, PrairieCare has expanded services every year since 2007. Expansions are underway in Maplewood, Edina, Chaska, Rochester, and Woodbury according to Chief Development Officer Todd Archbold. This also means job growth in the community, as PrairieCare expects to add about 200 positions to staff expansion plans.

"Mental illness is a competitive disease, where you have to be the sickest one in the room at the time when service is available to receive it. That's not acceptable, people are struggling and there is nowhere to go. PrairieCare is a model for treatment, not just for kids, but for the whole family. I got my daughter back, and I could breathe again," said a patient's parent.

For more information, please call 763-383-5800 or go to [www.prairie-care.com](http://www.prairie-care.com)

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