



The new **Mental Health Emergency Center** is a joint venture between Milwaukee County 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, **the center will serve as a national model for emergency crisis care that is patient-centered, recovery-oriented, and culturally informed.**

Scope of Services

- Targeted to open in early 2022, the emergency center will offer **24/7 crisis mental health assessment, stabilization, treatment, and transition care management for children, adolescents and adults.** There will be a separate treatment area for child and adolescent patients, as well as a separate entrance for those arriving via law enforcement.
- The center will provide a **therapeutic environment for both voluntary and involuntary patients** and facilitate the timely transfer for those under law enforcement custody to the care of highly trained, compassionate mental health professionals.
- The **goal for all patients is to receive timely treatment and transfer to the appropriate level of care.** The emergency center will have six inpatient beds for adults for short term stays if clinically needed. Children and adolescents needing observation or inpatient services will be promptly transferred to a pediatric mental health facility.
- The center will provide extensive **care management and navigation services,** ensuring safe and timely connections to continuing care- be that extended inpatient, residential or outpatient mental services or medications, housing, food, and other social supports.
- The center hopes to provide **crisis telepsychiatry services** to patients being served in other health care settings as well.

Community Need

About 1 in 5 individuals experience mental illness in their lifetime, and access to mental health resources has been identified as an important need 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 center is located at 1525 N. 12th Street, in the City of Milwaukee, and will serve patients residing in Milwaukee County and possibly surrounding communities.

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 assisting with a crisis response.

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 Psychiatric Crisis Services (PCS) originate from the City of Milwaukee and 70% of patients served by PCS live in close proximity to the new center.

Joint Venture

The center is a **joint venture between Milwaukee County** and Milwaukee's four health systems: **Advocate Aurora Health, Ascension Wisconsin, Children's Wisconsin, and Froedtert Health.**

Construction and start-up costs for the new center are 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 \$12 million annually.** Operating shortfalls will be similarly split 50/50 between the County and the health systems. Efforts are underway with the State of Wisconsin to enhance crisis reimbursement to ensure long-term viability.

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, Advocate Aurora Health brings significant clinical and patient service expertise to the delivery of care.



Local Impact

The new emergency center 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.** It will serve as a training center for psychiatric medical residents, and potentially offer professional educational opportunities for other mental health personnel in the future.

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



1525 N 12th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53205

MentalHealthMKE.org