

# Bartlett Regional Hospital

3260 Hospital Drive, Juneau, Alaska 99801

907.796.8900

[www.bartletthospital.org](http://www.bartletthospital.org)

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## Memorandum

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DATE: January 26, 2023  
TO: City and Borough of Juneau Assembly  
FROM: David Keith, BRH CEO  
CC: Kenny Solomon-Gross, Board President  
RE: FY24 Legislative Capital Budget Request – Bartlett Aurora Behavioral Health Center

### SUMMARY:

Bartlett Regional Hospital (BRH) is in the final stages of construction of the new Aurora Behavioral Health Center on the BRH campus/ BRH is excited to provide needed behavioral health services to the Southeast Alaska community in keeping with our mission, vision, and strategic priorities. In addition to existing behavioral health services, the new facility will also provide 23-hour observation and residential crisis services, based on the Crisis Now model, to both adolescents and adults.

BRH is requesting \$4,000,000 in FY24 State capital funding for the purposes of establishing crisis service patient and administrative space within the new Aurora Behavioral Health Center. These funds will also support the integration of crisis services into BRH's existing behavioral health service line, including the development of a facility specific Electronic Medical Record. Divisions within the State of Alaska are invested in seeing services developed within the Crisis Now model and have historically supported other organizations developing similar services.

### BACKGROUND:

The Aurora Behavioral Health Center at BRH has been under construction since April 2021 and is expected to be completed in April 2023. The total project cost is anticipated to be \$17.75M, and crisis services will occupy approximately 25% of the facility. \$10.13M of funding has been secured through other sources. Receipt of the \$4M funds will partially mitigate the remaining (\$7.62M) funding gap - of which BRH will be absorbing.

The Aurora Behavioral Health Center will house the majority of behavioral health services offered by BRH; Behavioral Health Outpatient Psychiatric Services, Crisis and Community Intervention Services, and Applied Behavior Analysis (services to children on the autism spectrum). The two new services lines, Crisis Observation and Stabilization (less than 24 hours) and Crisis Residential Stabilization (24 hours to 7 days) will also be housed in the center. These two critical services under the Crisis Now model will be offered to both adolescents and adults. 23-hour services will have 5 adult and 2 adolescent recliners to provide crisis observation and stabilization services. Crisis residential service beds will be varied based on the population need. The structure allows for either 7 beds all for one population, or a 3 room for one age population and 4 room for the other age population configuration. The crisis services floor of the building was originally created with eight beds for services. One of the rooms was repurposed to provide 23-hour services for adolescents in an environment away from adults receiving the 23-hour services.



From July 2021 through June 2022 (FY22), BRH Psychiatric Emergency Services staff responded to an average of 42 adults and 8 children/adolescents per month who presented in the emergency department with a behavioral health crisis (individuals may also have other medical complications requiring care). Crisis Stabilization Centers create a therapeutic environment with a “no wrong door” approach. This approach, consistent with the Crisis Now model, is also of benefit to law enforcement when responding to a call directly related to an individual in behavioral health crisis, providing an option in lieu of an emergency department or jail.

Recently, the U.S. Department of Justice released findings that the State of Alaska is deficient in ensuring community based behavioral health resources are available to adolescents, resulting in many being sent to higher levels of care outside their home community or the State of Alaska. Not only will BRH provide critical community-based services to adolescents through the Crisis Now model but will also create opportunities for the State of Alaska to demonstrate these community-based options in its response and long-term plan to address the findings from the investigation.

The crisis services will be available to the Juneau community as well as individuals throughout Southeast Alaska. We anticipate the crisis residential services for adolescents might receive statewide referrals based on the United States Department of Justice findings. We look forward to working with southeast and statewide partners to provide services to prevent adolescents from being sent out of state or to a higher level of care for needed services.

BRH is excited to be the first community in Southeast Alaska to provide these services based on the Crisis Now model. BRH will also be the first provider in Alaska to provide crisis residential services based on the model to adolescents. We look forward to sharing lessons learned in developing and operating these services, especially to the adolescent population, as other service providers open up in the coming months and years.