

# IOWA MEDICAL SOCIETY HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 10-07

Introduced by: Robert G. Robinson, MD and Michael Flaum, MD

Subject: Need for Sub-Acute Psychiatric Beds

Referred to: Legislation

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1 Whereas, There is a widely recognized shortage of acute psychiatric inpatient beds in Iowa; and  
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3 Whereas, That shortage is growing more severe with ongoing closures of several acute inpatient  
4 psychiatric units over the past few years; and  
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6 Whereas, Much (~40%) of the existing statewide inpatient bed capacity (primarily on psychiatric but  
7 also inpatient medical services) is accounted for by a small minority (~10%) of cases that remain in  
8 acute inpatient units well beyond their need for acute inpatient care because of either ongoing  
9 behavioral issues, e.g., episodic aggression, or being otherwise inappropriate for long term  
10 institutional settings such as residential care facilities or nursing homes; and  
11  
12 Whereas, Sub-acute beds that would be appropriate for many of these patients were routinely  
13 available for such cases through the Mental Health Institutes (MHI), however, budget cuts in 2001  
14 required a 40% reduction in overall MHI bed capacity which resulted in the closing of all sub-acute  
15 beds; and  
16  
17 Whereas, If such sub-acute beds existed there would be a decreased need for acute beds; and  
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19 Whereas, The Iowa legislature is already considering a significant restructuring of the Mental Health  
20 Institutes; therefore be it  
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22 RESOLVED, That the Director of Human Services for Iowa be strongly urged to revise the overt  
23 mission of the Mental Health Institutes so as to prioritize sub-acute inpatient capacity, i.e., at least  
24 50% of the remaining adult beds throughout the MHI system that are currently designated as acute  
25 be re-designated and re-staffed as sub-acute (with an expected length of stay of between 4 – 12  
26 weeks).