



January 23, 2017

Mr. Greg Barnier
Chair, Pennington County Board of Mental Health
130 Kansas City Street, Suite 300
Rapid City, SD 57701

RE: Rapid City Regional Hospital Behavioral Health Admission Criteria

Dear Mr. Barnier:

I write to inform you of changes to the admission criteria at Rapid City Regional Hospital. Effective February 1, 2017, we will no longer admit behavioral health patients who do not have acute medical needs to the main hospital when the Behavioral Health facility is at capacity. In these instances, we will expect the County to take custody of patients who are subject to the involuntary mental commitment process, pending an opening at the Behavioral Health unit. It is simply no longer feasible for us to care for behavioral health patients who do not have acute medical needs outside of the Behavioral Health facility. Unless we hear differently, we will contact the Sheriff's Office to take custody of involuntarily detained persons when the Behavioral Health facility is at capacity.

Also, by way of information, we will no longer admit patients to the Behavioral Health facility who have neurodevelopmental/cognitive disorders such as dementia, Alzheimer's disease, or Autism Spectrum Disorders. We believe it is in the best interest of all patients to limit the conditions which are appropriate for treatment in our facility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dennis Milliron", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dennis Milliron
Interim President, Rapid City Regional Hospital

cc: Sheriff Kevin Thom
Mark Vargo, Pennington County State's Attorney
Rod Seals, Acting Chief, Rapid City Fire Department
Karl Jegeris, Chief, Rapid City Police Department