



**Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney**  
Councilmember

June 11, 2021

## **MOTION**

WE MOVE that Cincinnati City Council allocate \$900,000 from the Capital budget to The Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center for the purpose of expanding the College Hill campus in order to address the behavioral health needs of children in the community.

Councilmember Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney

## **STATEMENT**

Cincinnati Children's recognizes the behavioral health needs of children in our community are among the highest priority for both our institution and the community. As a result, the Cincinnati Children's Board of Trustees in January 2020 approved a capital appropriation to double down on our investment at our College Hill Campus. Capital expenditures will be used to:

- Provide private rooms for 100% of patients. The current facility requires about half of all patients to share rooms—and the lack of privacy is a hindrance to patient recovery. With added space for private rooms, family members will have more privacy for visits, be able to spend the night and be able to better prepare for their child's transition home.
- Dedicated areas for therapy, including group, speech, occupational and recreational—all of which currently take place in shared spaces. Providing more private rooms and more common areas means that if a patient's behavior escalates, we can keep programming going and minimize disruptions for other patients.
- While other providers are cutting back or eliminating behavioral health services and beds, Cincinnati Children's is investing to make the care better.



## Why Pediatric Mental Health Is a Wise Investment

### The Facts about Pediatric Behavioral Health:

- Nationally, 1 in 5 children experience a mental health condition each year.
- 50% of mental illnesses begin in childhood before the age of 14.
- There are 10 child psychiatrists per 100,000 kids and teens. It is estimated the country needs 47 child psychiatrists per 100,000.

When children are mentally, emotionally, and behaviorally stable, they do better in school and are more likely to avoid risky behaviors. Investing in pediatric behavioral health can have a profound impact on a city and their citizens. A city cannot be considered thriving and economically healthy unless children's needs, both physical and mental are prioritized and met.

The COVID pandemic has had a lasting impact on pediatric behavioral health and has caused a significant toll on our nation's children.

- From April to October 2020 there has been a **24% increase** in emergency room visits to hospitals for children between the ages of 5 and 11 years old.
- From April to October 2020 there has been a **31% increase** in emergency room visits to hospitals for teens between the ages of 12 and 17.

Children in Cincinnati have not been immune.

- **Nearly 8,000 mental health crisis assessments have come through our Emergency Departments and Bridge Clinic**, a separate evaluation and care coordination space providing immediate care in a calm, quiet environment.
- Cincinnati Children's has been the mainstay for behavioral health care in our community for generations. When other providers and hospitals left the business, Cincinnati Children's expanded and has remained the stable provider the community counts on.
- Cincinnati Children's is the largest inpatient mental health provider of any children's hospital in the country with 100 inpatient beds and 30 specialized residential treatment beds at our College Hill facility.
- While the largest, the demand and need for these beds continues to exceed supply with children and adolescents often waiting in medical beds at Burnet Ave. main campus for a College Hill inpatient bed to become available.

### The Request:

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- While other providers are cutting back or eliminating behavioral health services and beds, Cincinnati Children's is investing to make the care better.

Cincinnati Children's would like to request support from the City of Cincinnati through the American Recovery Act to bring evidenced based practices in a state-of-the-art facility on our College Hill campus while engaging parents and families on their journey to secure appropriate behavioral healthcare. An investment in College Hill Cincinnati Children's campus will have lasting impact to generations of Cincinnati families and provide the piece of mind that the best care in the country is right here at home in their own city.