

Adult Inpatient Committee Report  
Illinois Planning and Advisory Council  
October 18, 2018

The Adult Inpatient Committee met with prospective IMHPAC member Dr. Sidney Weissman on October 18, 2018 to discuss his concerns. Dr. Weissman stated that the essential thing he is concerned about is the care of individuals with severe mental disorders and without insurance in the state's hospital emergency rooms. Dr. Weissman said the care of these individuals is the responsibility by law of the state. When seen in an emergency room, he said, they need to be transferred to a state-operated facility or a facility funded by the state.

Dr. Weissman stated that, in his knowledge, if these patients are disruptive in the emergency room the state notifies the hospital of a bed to which they can be transferred. In addition, for patients that are not disruptive but are in need of hospitalization the state does not advise the hospital of a bed. He said these patients may stay three or four days in the emergency room waiting to be transferred until the state advises the hospital of a bed or the patient leaves. Dr. Weissman stated that this is "cruel and unusual punishment for the sick citizens of our state".

Dr. Weissman stated that the state needs to fund at the Medicaid level hospitalization in private hospitals when a state bed is not available.

Dr. Weissman's concerns bring the Adult Inpatient Committee back to a suggestion we made in February 2016. In our committee report then we advised that the state should consider closing the existing state hospitals because the cost to maintain them is enormous and replace them with smaller, modern, recovery-oriented 25 bed facilities. These safety-net facilities could help stabilize and return to the community the patients who now wait in emergency rooms but are not transferred to the existing state hospitals. In addition, patients at the existing state-ops could be relocated there. These smaller facilities

would be closer to the community than the existing state-ops and might assist in eroding the stigma of mental illness that the old, large state facilities with their ties to the involuntary commitments that used to abound in them embody.