



Saint Louis County

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NEWS RELEASE

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County Board approves sale of Chris Jensen home for \$2.3 million

St. Louis County commissioners today approved the sale of Chris Jensen Health and Rehabilitation Center and surrounding land for \$2.3 million. The purchaser is Health Dimensions Group (HDG), which has been under a contract to lease and operate the facility for the County since 2009.

HDG has already invested \$575,000 in physical improvements to the facility, and has been studying how best to position Chris Jensen for long term success. In a letter to the county, HDG indicated it is considering expanding its services, including renovating the main facility and adding additional senior housing units.

“We’ve enjoyed a tremendous working relationship with the County and other organizations within the community under our lease agreement,” said Dave Briscoe, principal partner of HDG, “and are pleased to cement a long term arrangement serving the residents of the county and region.”

Commissioners praised HDG for its successful operations to date, noting that the county, prior to working with the company, had been subsidizing the home at a cost of \$1.2 million per year. HDG continues to employ more than 250 employees, that majority of which have union representation.

“I have a tremendous amount of confidence that HDG want to continue to serve the people of Duluth and the area,” said Commissioner Keith Nelson.

Added County Administrator Kevin Gray, “Their offer signals a strong long term commitment to the facility and the region.”

Commissioner Pete Stauber noted of HDG plans, “They’re not asking the County to put money toward it. This is private money. It’s a good business decision. It’s really a good use of our land; and taxpayers realize we’re good stewards of their money when we do things like this.”

The sale of Chris Jensen is expected to close by no later than March 31, 2014.

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