



Saint Louis County

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Request for Proposals for Purchase or Lease of Chris Jensen Home is Released

On May 18, 2009, the St. Louis County Board directed that a Request for Proposals (RFP) be developed to determine interest in the purchase or lease of the county's Chris Jensen Health & Rehabilitation Center, located in Duluth, MN. The RFP will help to assess marketplace viability and to provide information to prospective lessees or buyers of the facility who may have an interest in providing continued nursing home operations at the site.

As part of its ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of county citizens, St. Louis County has owned and operated the Chris Jensen facility since 1967, when the original portion of the current building replaced the old Cook Home which was located on the same site. To continue its goal of running Chris Jensen as a financially viable, non-subsidized business venture for St. Louis County, commissioners considered three options for its future operations. Currently, Chris Jensen is managed under contract by Ecumen Services, Inc., which owns and manages several nursing homes in the region. While continued county ownership under this arrangement is one option still under consideration by the county board, the RFP is a formal means of addressing the two remaining options for the future of Chris Jensen. These options include lease or sale of the facility.

Chris Jensen is a skilled nursing facility providing the community with rehabilitative, memory, and other long and short-term care services. There are 189 beds licensed with the State of Minnesota.

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