

Background Information on Minnesota Extended Treatment Options Program (METO)

The 1995 Legislature authorized the Commissioner of Human Services to develop a specialized service model at the Cambridge Regional Human Services Center campus to serve Minnesotans who have a developmental disability and exhibit severe behaviors that present a risk to public safety. The program developed was known as the Minnesota Extended Treatment Options (METO) Program. METO combined extensive outreach and support services with the availability of specialized residential beds so that individuals can be served in the least restrictive setting necessary. With extensive outreach and support services available, admission to the program was limited to those few individuals who exhibited such extreme behaviors that they could not be served safely in their communities.

METO program participants were required to be mentally retarded, be of adult age, and exhibit behaviors that present a risk to public safety. Most individuals were placed in METO under the Minnesota Civil Commitment and Treatment Act. METO had the capacity to provide specialized residential services for up to 48 clients.

Minnesota Specialty Health System-Cambridge provides services to individuals diagnosed with developmental disabilities or related conditions who may be highly complex with a history of legal problems, public safety and/or personal safety concerns due to significant behavioral disturbances and/or poorly managed medical conditions. The program replaced the Minnesota Extended Treatment Options Program. METO closed on June 30, 2011, as a result of the settlement of the 2009 federal district court *Jensen v. Minnesota Department of Human Services* litigation and has been replaced by the Minnesota Specialty Health System-Cambridge.