

VICTORIA AREA PSYCHIATRIST IS SPEAKING OUT ABOUT VIHA'S MENTAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT

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A VICTORIA AREA PSYCHIATRIST IS SPEAKING OUT ABOUT CHANGES TO THE VANCOUVER ISLAND HEALTH AUTHORITY'S MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM, WHICH HE FEARS COULD HAVE FATAL CONSEQUENCES.

DR. ANDRE MASTERS SAYS IN THE LAST YEAR HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE HAD A NUMBER OF SERIOUS CONCERNS WITH VIHA'S MENTAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT--INCLUDING HAVING NURSES REPLACED WITH LESS SKILLED, LESS EXPENSIVE WORKERS; THE REDUCTION OF 6 CASE MANAGERS THAT DETERMINE PATIENT'S SOCIAL NEEDS; AND THE LOSS OF 10 BEDS ON THE PSYCHIATRIC UNIT-- ERIC MARTIN PAVILION-- WHEN MASTERS SAYS THERE ARE PEOPLE IN OF THE BEDS.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THESE PROBLEMS AREN'T ADDRESSED? DR. MASTERS SAYS PEOPLE WILL GET HURT.

"We may have more suicides; likely we will. This has been mentioned by some of my some of my colleagues. Suicide is a real problem. If people are so distressed, they need admission, they can't get in-- what can you do with them?"

CFOX 1070 CONTACTED VIHA-- WHICH SAYS IT'S NOT YET PREPARED TO COMMENT ON THE ISSUE

- KAIT RICHARDSON

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