

Jan. 17, 2012

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The Emily Program withdraws plans for Crocus Hill site; property restrictions too limited

ST. PAUL, MINN. – The Emily Program announced today it will halt plans to renovate the Wilder Foundation’s former Bush Memorial Children’s Home, 180 S. Grotto, into a 24-bed residential treatment program for eating disorders.

The Emily Program had planned to lease the facility from Wellington Management which has a purchase agreement to acquire the property from the Wilder Foundation.

“From our first meeting with neighbors last summer, we felt tremendous support from the neighborhood – both for our clients and our vision for the Wilder property,” said Jillian Lampert, director of communications, outreach and research. “In recent weeks, it has become clear, however, that the site would place too many restrictions on our operations, including limits on programs needed to provide the best care for our clients.”

Among those limits are restrictions on outpatient care, Lampert said. While the Wilder site’s primary use would be residential treatment, The Emily Program also is experiencing an increased need for outpatient care.

The Emily Program, established in 1993 by Dirk Miller, has eight locations, including seven in the Twin Cities and Duluth, and an office in Seattle, Wash. Most recently, The Emily Program opened a 10-bed adolescent residential program in the St. Anthony Park neighborhood of St. Paul which includes outpatient services for adolescents and their families.