

HUSCH BLACKWELL

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January 3, 2024

VIA EMAIL

Stephen Davis, Director
Division of Health Care Facility Licensure and Certification
Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality
Department of Public Health
67 Forest Street
Marlborough, MA 01752

Re: Saint Anne's Hospital – 90 Day Notice of Closure of Certain Services

Dear Mr. Davis:

This letter is submitted on behalf of Steward Health Care System regarding Saint Anne's Hospital, located at 795 Middle Street, Fall River, MA 02721 (the "Hospital"), and its geriatric psychiatric satellite unit, located at 150 York Street, Stoughton, MA 02072 (the "Unit"). Pursuant to 105 CMR 130.122(B), the Hospital hereby provides ninety (90) days' notice to the Department of Public Health ("Department") of its decision to close the Unit, consisting of 16 inpatient psychiatric beds. The Unit has not been operational since October 22, 2021, and does not have any patients currently admitted to the Unit. The Hospital intends to close the Unit as of April 2, 2024.

In compliance with applicable requirements at 105 CMR 130.122(B), the Hospital provides this written notice of the planned discontinuance of the Service. The following information regarding the discontinuation is hereby provided for your review.

1. Current and historical utilization rates for the Service.

The Unit opened in 2014 and was licensed for 16 psychiatric inpatient beds. The last patient was discharged on October 22, 2021 as a result of insurmountable challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Most notably, the Hospital could not maintain adequate permanent staffing for the Unit, a direct result of the nationwide health care worker shortages that were exacerbated by the pandemic. Therefore, the unit has had zero utilization since November 2021.

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Stephen Davis, Director
Division of Health Care Facility Licensure and Certification
Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality
Department of Public Health
January 3, 2024
Page 2

2. A description of the anticipated impact on individuals in the Hospital's service area following the closure of the Services.

The Hospital does not anticipate a significant impact on individuals in the Unit's service area as the Unit is not currently accepting patients and has not been an inpatient option for individuals since October 2021.

In addition, there are a number of alternative facilities in close proximity to the Unit that offer inpatient geriatric psychiatric services, including those listed below.

Alternative Facilities in Massachusetts	Licensed Geriatric Inpatient Beds ^{1 2}	Distance from Stoughton	Average Driving Time ³
Carney Hospital	16 beds	11.3 miles	20 minutes
St. Elizabeth's Medical Center at Carney Hospital	15 beds	12.1 miles	21 minutes
Morton Hospital	19 beds	23.2 miles	34 minutes
McLean Hospital	36 beds	29.3 miles	37 minutes
Mt. Auburn Hospital	15 beds	29.1 miles	39 minutes
MetroWest Medical Center	24 beds	28.9 miles	41 minutes
CHA Everett Hospital	22 beds	25.6 miles	43 minutes
Lawrence Memorial Hospital	34 beds	26.4 miles	44 minutes
Pembroke Hospital	19 beds	26.4 miles	40 minutes
Saint Anne's Hospital	16 beds	36.5 miles	45 minutes
South Coast Behavioral Health	24 beds	42 miles	46 minutes
Beth Israel Lahey Health – Plymouth	24 beds	41.9 miles	51 minutes

3. Date for the closure of the Service.

The Unit will officially close on April 2, 2024.

¹ Per the Department of Mental Health as of 12/13/2023.

² There are an additional 152 beds available within a driving time of 90 minutes from the Unit.

³ As calculated using Google Maps.

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Stephen Davis, Director
Division of Health Care Facility Licensure and Certification
Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality
Department of Public Health
January 3, 2024
Page 3

4. Names and addresses of any organized health care coalitions and community groups known to the Hospital when the notice is issued to DPH that would have an interest in the closure of the Services. (Please list).

NAMI Massachusetts
331 Montvale Avenue, 2nd Floor
Woburn, MA 01801

5. A detailed account of any community engagement and planning which has occurred prior to filing notice of the closure of the Services.

The Hospital provided notice of the Unit's formal closure to Hospital staff and local elected officials, including the Stoughton delegation, Senator Walter Timilty, Representative Ted Philips and Representative William Galvin. These conversations occurred between December 1, 2023 and December 4, 2023. Additionally, Steward Senior Leadership has engaged in ongoing conversations with the Department and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to discuss the planned closure.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely

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Rebecca Rodman

cc: J. Bernice, DPH
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Health Policy Commission
Office of the Attorney General
Center for Health Information and Analysis
Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development