



February 28, 2020

Via Email Only, Return Receipt Requested

Stephen Davis, Licensure Unit Manager
Division of Health Care Facility Licensure and Certification
Department of Public Health
67 Forest Street
Marlborough, MA 01752

Dear Mr. Davis:

This letter is submitted on behalf of The Mercy Hospital, Inc. (d/b/a Mercy Medical Center), located at 271 Carew Street, Springfield, MA 01104 regarding its licensed satellite campus, Providence Behavioral Health Hospital (“Providence Hospital Campus”) located at 1233 Main Street, Holyoke, MA 01040 (collectively, the “Hospital”). Mercy Medical Center is a community hospital, which has been serving the needs of Western Massachusetts for 150 years. On its Providence Hospital Campus, the Hospital is currently licensed to operate a 50-bed inpatient Psychiatric Service, a 24-bed inpatient Pediatric Service, and a 57-bed inpatient Alcoholism Treatment Service.

Facing serious psychiatrist shortages that will prevent its future ability to provide safe, quality care, Providence Behavioral Health Hospital, part of Mercy Medical Center, following completion of the regulatory processes of the Department of Public Health (“DPH”) and the Department of Mental Health (“DMH”), plans to discontinue inpatient psychiatric services at Providence Hospital in Holyoke as of June 30, 2020, including its adult, geriatric and pediatric services. Collaborative planning is underway to help patients access timely psychiatric care.

While licensed for 74 inpatient psychiatric beds, Providence Hospital has regularly operated at a daily census of less than 60 over the past two years due to persistent provider shortages that have now become critical.

Substance use disorder services will continue at Providence Hospital —the 57-bed Acute Treatment Service (detoxification), Clinical Stabilization Service (post-detoxification), and outpatient substance use disorder services, with an intensive outpatient program and a methadone clinic.

As such, please accept this letter as written notification to the DPH of the Hospital's intention to submit a ninety (90) day notice of the proposed discontinuation of the licensed 50-bed inpatient Psychiatric Service and 24-bed inpatient Pediatric Service at its Providence Hospital Campus, located at 1233 Main Street, Holyoke, MA 01040. In accordance with 105 CMR 130.122, the Hospital intends to provide the formal ninety (90) day discontinuation notice on or about March 31, 2020. Please be aware that in addition to this letter, the Hospital is separately notifying each of the required parties under 105 CMR 130.122(B) of its intention to submit the ninety (90) day notice described herein on or about March 31, 2020.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to providing more information in the forthcoming ninety (90) day notice. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,



Deborah Bitsoli, President
Mercy Medical Center and its affiliates

Sincerely,



Dr. Robert Roose, Chief Medical Officer
Mercy Medical Center

Cc: J. Mikula, DMH
J. Ross, DMH
E. Kelley, DPH
S. Lohnes, DPH
W. Mackie, DPH
R. Rodman, DPH