



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality
Determination of Need Program
250 Washington Street, Boston MA 02511

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February 3, 2021

Mark Goldstein President
Anna Jaques Hospital
25 HighInd Avenue
Newburyport, MA 01950

RE: Anna Jaques Hospital - Application to Add Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Beds Pursuant to Order of the Commissioner of Public Health Regarding Determination of Need Approvals Related to COVID-19

Dear Mr. Goldstein:

The Department received the notification above on February 2, 2021 to add four (4) child and adolescent inpatient psychiatric beds at the Applicant's satellite, Amesbury Health Center, located at 24 Morrill Place, Amesbury, MA 01913, ("AHC").

The Applicant currently holds a license to operate 12 child and adolescent inpatient psychiatric beds at AHC for the care of patients ages four through seventeen. The need for expanded capacity of inpatient psychiatric beds for children and adolescents has increased as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially for those individuals with a pre-existing mental health condition. Increased capacity of inpatient child and adolescent psychiatric beds will improve access to a vulnerable population, contributing to better outcomes.

The increased capacity of inpatient child and adolescent psychiatric beds will additionally contribute to reduced Emergency Department (ED) boarding times for these patients. Patients presenting to the ED requiring an inpatient psychiatric admission historically face long wait times and experience boarding in the ED due to limited capacity of inpatient psychiatric beds, and the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated this issue, especially for children and adolescents.¹

¹ Lynn E. Delisi, *COVID-19 Pandemic: Impact on psychiatric care in the United States*, 289 PSYCHIATRIC RES 113069 (2020); *Hospital Emergency Room Wait Times Increasing for People in Need of Psychiatric Care*, MASSLIVE (Oct. 11, 2020), <https://www.masslive.com/news/2020/10/er-wait-times-up-for-psychiatric-patients-needing-admittance.html>.

Accordingly, to address the needs of its patient panel, the Applicant seeks to expand its existing inpatient child and adolescent psychiatric unit at AHC by 4 beds, for a total of 16 licensed inpatient child and adolescent psychiatric beds. The cost associated with the Proposed Project is \$395,000 which includes renovation to accommodate the additional psychiatric beds.

After review, DPH has determined the need for the Proposed Project relates to the State of Emergency and therefore the DoN approval requirement is waived pursuant to the COVID-19 order. As a result, you may commence the Proposed Project.

Sincerely,



Lara Szent-Gyorgyi
Director, Determination of Need

cc: Sherman Lohnes, Division of Health Care Facility Licensure and Certification, DPH
Rebecca Rodman, Senior Deputy General Counsel, DPH
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