



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

CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lieutenant Governor

MARYLOU SUDDERS
Secretary

MONICA BHAREL, MD, MPH
Commissioner

Tel: 617-624-6000
www.mass.gov/dph

June 9, 2021

Kathleen E. Walsh
President and Chief Executive Officer
BMC Health System, Inc.
One Boston Medical Center Place
Boston, MA 02118

RE: BMC Health System, Inc. – Request to Add Inpatient Psychiatry and Substance Use Disorder
Beds Pursuant to the Order of the Commissioner of Public Health Regarding
Determination of Need Approvals Related to COVID-19

Dear Ms. Walsh:

The Department received the notification above on May 27, 2021 to add fifty-six (56) inpatient adult psychiatry beds to be co-located with a twenty-six (26) bed clinical stabilization service unit at a new site at 34 North Pearl Street in Brockton, MA, to be established as a satellite location of Boston Medical Center (BMC).

The Applicant states that among its patient panel there is a disproportionate volume of behavioral health conditions. The COVID pandemic has exacerbated the length of boarding times in the Emergency Department, and regional and statewide demand for psychiatric beds far exceeded available beds during the pandemic. In addition, the pandemic also exacerbated the need for substance use disorder treatment services. Among inpatients at BMC who test positive for COVID-19, approximately 30% also had a behavioral health diagnosis.

The Applicant has determined that a significant need for inpatient psychiatric beds and more clinically intense levels of substance use disorder care will exist post-pandemic as many patients delayed needed medical care during the COVID-19 surges. The Applicant has noted that the type of care that its patients have put off includes care for ongoing or new behavioral health issues.

Accordingly, to address the needs of its patient panel, the Applicant seeks to create this new location to serve adult inpatient psychiatric and substance use disorder needs. The projected costs for the Project are \$21,000,000, to renovate an existing building and outfit it for the 56 inpatient psychiatry beds and 26 clinical stabilization service 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
Elizabeth Kelley, Director Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality, DPH
Margret Cooke, Deputy Commissioner, DPH
Janet Ross, DMH