



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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MONICA BHAREL, MD, MPH
Commissioner

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

VIA EMAIL: hatiras_spiros@holyokehealth.com

February 24, 2021

Mr. Spiros Hatiras
President and CEO
Holyoke Medical Center
575 Beech Street
Holyoke, MA 01040

RE: Notification for Holyoke Medical Center Substantial Change in Service Related to COVID-19 State of Emergency – Amendment

Dear Mr. Hatiras:

The Department received the request for an amendment to Holyoke Medical Center's psychiatric bed project which was approved by the Determination of Need Program on November 10, 2020. The original project was to modify two (2) existing inpatient units to increase adult inpatient psychiatric bed capacity from the current twenty (20) beds to thirty-eight (38) and create a nine (9) bed child and adolescent unit to accommodate the needed increase in psychiatric beds.

The requested amendment is to increase the adult inpatient psychiatric beds from the current twenty (20) to fifty-four (54) by creating two (2) additional adult units: an eighteen (18) bed unit and a sixteen (16) bed unit. The nine (9) bed child and adolescent unit will no longer be created.

Since submitting the initial request, the Applicant has reassessed the psychiatric bed needs in the area and, in concert with the Department of Mental Health and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, determined that demand for child and adolescent beds would be met without the Applicant's 9-bed unit. However, the need for adult psychiatric beds continues to be extremely high and the addition of thirty-four (34) adult beds would help to address this need.

The increased inpatient psychiatric bed capacity will be used to address a need for inpatient

psychiatric services that has become more critical as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic as demonstrated by increased demand for these services. The increase in demand has been experienced in general, and particularly among patients who have contracted the disease as well as those are at heightened risk to contract it who are at increased risk for adverse psychosocial outcomes.

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lara Szent-Gyorgyi".

Lara Szent-Gyorgyi
Director, Determination of Need

- c: Sherman Lohnes, Division of Health Care Facility Licensure and Certification, DPH
- Daniel Gent, Plan Review, DPH
- Rebecca Rodman, Senior Deputy General Counsel, DPH
- Elizabeth Kelley, Director Bureau of Safety and Quality, DPH

