

STEWARD ST. ELIZABETH'S MEDICAL
PLAN FOR CLOSURE OF THE GERIATRIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH UNIT AT CARNEY
HOSPITAL

The document serves to inform the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (“DPH”) of Steward Health Care’s transition plan for the proposed closure of Steward St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center’s Geriatric Behavioral Health Unit (the “unit” or the “behavioral health unit”) located at 2100 Dorchester Avenue, Dorchester MA 02124. The unit will be phased down with a planned closure date of August 31, 2024.

Due to the continued financial issues, Steward Health Care is no longer able to continue to operate Carney Hospital. Due to the hospital relying on a Medicare/Medicaid Payor mix of 73.8%, as well as a decreased number of discharges, denied claims post-discharge, credit issues, and the ongoing need for capital expenditures and repairs to the physical plant and equipment, it has become financially impossible to continue hospital operations. Since Carney Hospital is closing, the St. Elizabeth Medical Center’s behavioral health unit must also close. Due to these circumstances and the approval of Steward Health Care’s petition with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas, to Carney Hospital, the St. Elizabeth’s Geriatric Behavioral Health Unit will cease operations on August 31, 2024.

Two public hearings were held regarding Steward Carney Hospital, LLC, one virtual and the second in person. The in person public hearing will be held on August 13, 2024, at Florian Hall, 55 Hallett Street, Dorchester MA 02124. The virtual public hearing was held on August 14, 2024.

To provide a safe and orderly transition and closure, the Hospital is providing an anticipated timeline for the cessation of inpatient operations:

May 6, 2024.	Steward Health Care filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Protection
July 26, 2024	Steward Health Care filed a motion (the “Closure Motion”) with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas, proposing the closure of Carney Hospital.
July 26, 2024	Leadership notified medical member staff of proposed hospital closure.
July 26, 2024	The Hospital stood up its Emergency Management Command Center to assist with transition plans to assure a safe transfer or discharge for all inpatients.
July 26. 2024	WARN letters issued to employees, residents, and union representatives.

July 26, 2024	Notification to the following unions: Massachusetts Nursing Association (MNA) 1199 SEIU Area Trades Council
July 27, 2024	USPS mailing of WARN letter to employees, residents, and union representatives.
July 29, 2024	The Hospital ceased admissions to the St. Elizabeth's inpatient Behavioral Health Unit, and engaged the MA Ombudsman Marylouise Gamache to assist with the discharge plans of Behavioral Health patients with longer than average lengths of stay. Nursing, all clinical and non-clinical staff assigned to the unit, pharmacy, radiology, blood bank, laboratory services, emergency services, dietary, housekeeping, plant, and facilities, will continue until all patients are discharged and the emergency department closes.
July 31, 2024	The Bankruptcy Court approved the closure of Carney Hospital at a hearing on the Closure Motion.
Prior to closing	All required regulatory bodies will be notified of the closure of the St. Elizabeth's Geriatric Unit located at Carney Hospital.
Prior to closing	St. Elizabeth's will update The Joint Commission of the unit closure date.
August 2, 2024	Employee Assistance Representative onsite to meet with Carney and St. Elizabeth's staff.
August 31, 2024	Final walk through of the unit following closure.
August 31, 2024	Submit Facility Closure Form to DPH.

To provide a safe and orderly transition and unit closure, the hospital is providing the following information:

A working group has been assembled on July 29, 2024 to facilitate the safe discharge for all remaining patients prior to August 31, 2024.

This group meets each weekday and membership includes EOHHS Manager of Complex Discharge Support, Vice President of Behavioral Health Services for Steward, Carney Hospital Director of Social Work, Carney Hospital Behavioral Health Director, Steward Chief Financial & Administrative Officer, North Region (member of Clinical Command Center) and Steward Senior Director of Quality & Regulatory (member of Clinical Command Center). The purpose

of the group is to identify and eliminate barriers to discharge planning and facilitate a safe discharge or transfer of geriatric behavioral health unit patients. The current Geriatric Behavioral Health Unit census is 1. The planned discharge/transfer of the remaining patient is August 19, 2024.

To ensure ongoing access to inpatient geriatric behavioral health care, Steward Health Care has been in communication with the Department of Public Health regarding the geriatric behavioral health beds at Good Samaritan Medical Center. These beds have been used as medical/surgical beds to increase medical/surgical capacity in response to the Brockton Hospital fire. Steward Health Care intends to convert them back to geriatric behavioral health beds and has been working with DPH and the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to complete this process. Steward anticipates that these beds will reopened in early September.

Staff All St. Elizabeth's Medical Center Geriatric Behavioral Health Registered Nurse employee files remain the custody of Carney Hospital. Access to these records will be provided as described in the Carney Hospital closure plan. The records of all other staff providing direct and indirect patient care are currently and will be maintained within the custody of St. Elizabeth's Medical Center.

Nursing, all clinical and non-clinical staff assigned to the unit, pharmacy, radiology, respiratory therapy, blood bank, laboratory services, emergency services, dietary, housekeeping, plant and facilities, are contracted services provided by Carney Hospital and will continue until all patients are discharged from the unit.

Medical Records All patient medical records will remain in the custody of St. Elizabeth's Medical Center. Patients will continue to have access to their records through St. Elizabeth's Medical Center.

Pharmacy closure

Medications have already begun being transferred to SEMC inventory or returned as able via our reverse distributor. DEA has previously been notified as required in writing and acknowledged receipt of our plan. Final inventory of controlled substances will be completed on September 3rd and transferred to SEMC. Once this is complete, the DEA will be notified and the license for controlled substances at Carney will be rescinded. The state Drug Control Program will be notified when the drug transfer is complete on September 3rd.

Communication Plan with Patients

The working group described above has developed an individualized discharge plan in cooperation with each patient, family/representative, and guardians as indicated to assure a safe transition and discharge. The team regularly communicates with the

patient/family/representative/guardian to review placement opportunities and discuss options for discharge.

Physical Plant and Decommissioning of the Building

All equipment disposition, waste removal, and building closure tasks will be done as part of the Carney Hospital closure activities and are described in detail in the Carney Hospital closure plan.

The hospital agrees to provide notification to the Department of Public Health of any changes to this plan. The hospital agrees to provide the Department responses to requests to determine compliance with the closure plan.

The hospital agrees to allow the Department of Public Health to conduct a closure survey.