In the Matter Of:

Boston DPH Hearing

CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER HEARING

November 30, 2023



Children's Medical Center Hearing - November 30, 2023

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1	Volume: 1 Pages: 1-44
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4	MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
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7	Public Meeting on the Determination of Need Application
8	#BCH-23082513-HE, filed on OCTOBER 13, 2023 by the CHILDREN'S
9	MEDICAL CENTER CORPORATION (Applicant), located at 300
10	Longwood Avenue, Boston, MA for a substantial capital
11	expenditure at FRANCISCAN HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN located at 30
12	Warren Street, Brighton, MA.
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16	Thursday November 20 2022
17	Thursday, November 30, 2023
18	6:00 p.m 7:09 p.m.
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23	Christine E. Borrelli, CSR, RPR, RMR
24	LEXITAS LEGAL (508) 478-9795 - (508) 478-0595 (Fax)
25	www.LexitasLegal.com

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1 (Meeting commenced at 6:00 p.m.)

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- 3 OPERATOR: Welcome, and thank you for standing by.
- 4 At this time, all participants are on a listen-only mode until
- 5 the public comment portion of today's conference. To queue up
- 6 for public comment, please press star and the number 1 on your
- 7 phone, and record your name at the prompt. This cause is
- 8 being recorded. If you have any objections, please disconnect
- 9 at this time.
- 10 I will now turn the call over to Dennis Renaud.
- 11 Thank you. You may begin.
- MR. RENAUD: Good evening. My name is Dennis
- 13 Renaud. I represent the Massachusetts Department of Public
- 14 Health, and I am the Director of the Determination of Need
- 15 Program.
- 16 For clarification, you will hear me refer to the
- 17 Determination of Need Program as the DoN program, and the
- 18 Department of Public Health as the Department.
- Joining me today from DPH are my colleagues Fabiola
- 20 Catulle and Lynn Conover. On behalf of the DPH's Commissioner
- 21 Robert Goldstein and our Bureau Director Elizabeth Kelley, I
- 22 want to thank you for taking the time this evening to
- 23 participate in this hearing.
- The Department is holding this hearing virtually by
- 25 conference call in order to promote public access. This

- 1 hearing has been called pursuant to an application submitted
- 2 by the Children's Medical Center Corporation. Upon receipt of
- 3 the application, DoN staff reviewed the application, and after
- 4 finding it to be in compliance with the DoN statute and
- 5 regulation for filing, assigned it a filing date of
- 6 October 13, 2023.
- 7 This DoN application is for the Children's Medical
- 8 Center Corporation for a proposed project at Franciscan
- 9 Hospital for Children. The enabling statute for the DoN
- 10 program requires that any person or government agency
- 11 intending to make a substantial capital expenditure as defined
- in the DoN regulation, must apply for DoN approval before
- 13 engaging in such a project.
- I will now provide a DoN project description. The
- 15 proposed project includes the construction fit-out and
- 16 equipment of approximately 278,000 gross square feet on the
- 17 Franciscan Hospital campus to include 116 licensed beds
- 18 comprised of 16 pediatric medical and rehabilitative beds, 12
- 19 net new beds, 48 pediatric mental health beds, 4 net new beds,
- 20 and 8 pediatric mental health beds for patients who have
- 21 intellectual disability disorders, resulting in 8 net new
- 22 beds. The total value of the proposed project based on the
- 23 maximum capital expenditure is \$481,371,000.
- 24 In accordance with the statute and regulations
- 25 governing the DoN process, the DoN program is analyzing the

- 1 Children's Medical Center Corporation application for
- 2 compliance with the set of standards and criteria including,
- 3 but not limited to, a justification of the need for the
- 4 project, its planning process, financial feasibility,
- 5 environmental impact, and the reasonableness of cost and
- 6 expenditures. These are the key factors which the DoN program
- 7 will apply in its analysis of this application.
- 8 This public hearing is an effort to gather
- 9 information and to hear the opinions of interested parties
- 10 about the proposed project. It is not intended to be a
- 11 question and answer session. No questions will be permitted.
- 12 The DoN program will take all relevant information into
- 13 account in preparing its recommendation to the Massachusetts
- 14 Public Health Council, whose decision on whether to approve
- 15 the DoN for the proposed project will be made at one of its
- 16 upcoming public meetings. We will accept written comments on
- 17 the application for 10 days following this hearing.
- 18 As this is a virtual hearing, the logistics are
- 19 different from in-person hearings. I will review our process
- 20 for today. We will work to resolve any problem we experience.
- 21 Our plan for today is as follows:
- We are using a moderated conference, so a moderator
- 23 will manage the queue for speaking. This meeting is being
- 24 recorded and transcribed. Press Star 1 if you would like to
- 25 testify. This will put you in the queue. You would not be

- 1 told where you are in the queue nor will you get much notice
- 2 that you are about to testify. When it is your turn to
- 3 testify, you will be told you are now the speaker, and you
- 4 will experience a short silence and will then be the speaker.
- 5 If you have muted your phone, you may need to unmute. Please
- 6 begin by stating your name, affiliation or town of residence.
- 7 Please speak clearly so that our transcriber can record
- 8 everything accurately. Because we expect many speakers, we
- 9 limit speakers to every one to three minutes. I will be
- 10 timing people, and when you have 30 seconds left, you will
- 11 hear this sound. When your three minutes is through, I will
- 12 say "Time is up," and the moderator will mute you and give the
- 13 floor to the next speaker. We may experience a slight pause
- 14 between speakers.
- 15 If testimony is lengthy, we suggest you present a
- 16 three-minute summary of those remarks and submit a full text
- 17 of your comments in writing. If you have a written comment of
- 18 your remarks, regardless of length, please feel free to submit
- 19 it to the Department by email or via postal service by
- 20 December 11, 2023. Email us at DPH.don@state.ma.us. A mailed
- 21 response can be sent to Determination of Need, Massachusetts
- 22 Department of Public Health, 67 Forest Street, Suite 100,
- 23 Marlborough, Massachusetts 01752. Be assured that the
- 24 Department will consider all comments whether presented orally
- 25 or in writing. Whether you comment or not, please know that

- 1 the Department greatly values and appreciates your
- 2 participation in the DoN process.
- Before we open the line to the general public, the
- 4 representative of the applicant will go first and will be
- 5 allotted four minutes to present information about the
- 6 proposed project. Following this presentation, we will
- 7 provide an opportunity for elected officials from the
- 8 community to comment and then begin calling on those
- 9 individuals who request to speak this evening. I will now ask
- 10 Dr. Joseph Mitchell, President and Chief Executive Officer of
- 11 Franciscan Hospital for Children, to make a brief statement on
- 12 the proposed changes. Dr. Mitchell, you may now start with
- 13 your comments.
- DR. JOSEPH MITCHELL: Great. Thank you very much,
- 15 Dennis. Good evening. My name is Joe Mitchell, and I am the
- 16 President of Franciscan Children's, which is a specialty
- 17 hospital for children located in the Brighton neighbor of
- 18 Boston.
- I would like to begin by thanking the Department of
- 20 Public Health for giving me the opportunity to speak about our
- 21 unique clinical services and mission. I will also provide
- 22 some context and rationale for our DoN application.
- Founded in 1949, Franciscan Children's has become a
- 24 nationally recognized pediatric care provider. We care for
- 25 children with complex mental health, medical, and special

- 1 education needs. We are the only dedicated pediatric
- 2 rehabilitation hospital in New England, one of the largest
- 3 providers of pediatric inpatient, outpatient, and school-based
- 4 mental health services, and the market leader for providing
- 5 dental surgery to children. We are also a critical safety net
- 6 provider for the Commonwealth. Seventy percent of our
- 7 patients are MassHealth beneficiaries. Nearly one out of
- 8 three of our medical inpatients are involved with the
- 9 Department of Children and Families. We serve a culturally
- 10 diverse group of children and families. Nearly one in three
- of our patients and families speak English as a second
- 12 language. We employ over 700 exceptional caregivers and staff
- 13 who are passionate about our mission to care for children with
- 14 complex needs.
- While Franciscan has grown and evolved over the last
- 16 seven decades to meet the increasingly complex needs of
- 17 children and families, our campus in Brighton remained largely
- 18 unchanged. Four out of eight of our buildings on our campus
- 19 are original and date back to our founding over 75 years ago.
- 20 These buildings are severely outdated and expensive to
- 21 maintain. Our existing campus also significantly limits
- 22 patient access given our current bed configuration and lack of
- 23 private rooms.
- We are pursuing this DoN with our sister hospital,
- 25 Boston Children's, to expand access for desperately needed

- 1 services and better meet the current and future needs of
- 2 patients and families. The goal is to build a world-class
- 3 state-of-the-art campus that matches our collective reputation
- 4 for providing distinctive clinical excellence.
- 5 The proposed facility has two primary goals. First,
- 6 we propose to significantly expand our mental health program
- 7 capacity to address the pediatric mental health crisis and
- 8 reduce the backlog of patients boarding in emergency rooms
- 9 across the state. In addition, the proposed facility will
- 10 house new inpatient and outpatient programs for specialty
- 11 populations, including children with intellectual and
- 12 developmental disabilities. Second, we propose to build a
- 13 signature rehabilitation facility designed to accommodate
- 14 children with complex chronic medical conditions, and those
- 15 who have suffered catastrophic illness or accident.
- Today the City of Boston, despite its substantial
- 17 health resources and global leadership, lacks such a critical
- 18 facility for children. This facility will include
- 19 state-of-the-art rehabilitation spaces, including aquatic
- 20 therapy, therapeutic gymnasium, and private rooms for children
- 21 and families. It will also be environmentally sustainable.
- 22 Finally, our compass modernization plan calls for
- 23 the expansion of our ambulatory surgical suite by adding an
- 24 additional operating room. This fourth operating room will
- 25 allow us to meet the growing demand for pediatric dentistry

- 1 under anesthesia, which is required for children with complex
- 2 medical and mental health conditions.
- In closing, our motto at Franciscan Children's is
- 4 "So every kid can." This means helping as many children as
- 5 possible receive the specialized care they need and allowing
- 6 them to live their lives to the fullest possible potential.
- 7 Unfortunately, given our current access constraints, many
- 8 children do not receive the care they need. The proposed
- 9 investment will help more kids, more families access
- 10 high-quality, safe, and compassionate care. Thank you for
- 11 your time and consideration and for your commitment to keeping
- 12 children safe and healthy.
- 13 MR. RENAUD: Thank you. We will now begin by taking
- 14 comments from invited elected officials. Our first speaker
- 15 will be State Representative Michael Moran.
- MR. MORAN: Hello? Can you hear me?
- MR. RENAUD: Yes, yes.
- 18 MR. MORAN: Thank you, Dennis. I appreciate you
- 19 taking me out of turn. As you said, my name is Representative
- 20 Michael Moran, and I have had the privilege of serving in the
- 21 Massachusetts House representing Allston-Brighton for the past
- 22 17 years. Currently in my capacity as a member of the House,
- 23 I serve as the majority leader of the House.
- I don't think you will hear from anyone this evening
- 25 that has as long a history with Franciscan Children's Hospital

- 1 as I have. As a child and up until the age of 18 years old, I
- 2 received all of my medical care at the hospital. As an adult,
- 3 I and many of my friends volunteered two to three times a year
- 4 taking the kids from Franciscan's to cookouts, minor league
- 5 hockey games, and minor league baseball. For many years, I
- 6 served on Franciscan's Board of Visitors. And finally as a
- 7 state representative, over my career I have helped steer over
- 8 \$60 million in additional state revenue to Franciscan
- 9 Children's so they can provide more of the incredible services
- 10 that they do for these kids that are in need. Because of this
- 11 long association, believe me, I know firsthand that Franciscan
- 12 Children's Hospital campus needs to be modernized and updated
- 13 to meet the complex rehabilitation and behavioral challenges
- 14 of today's families.
- 15 Boston Children's Hospital provides world-class
- 16 healthcare to kids all over the world. And during the
- 17 acquisition of Franciscan Children's Hospital, they have
- 18 outlined a bold vision to create a world-class center of
- 19 excellence right here in Brighton on the Franciscan's campus.
- This is an exciting time for Franciscan Children's
- 21 Hospital, however, I believe with these exciting times and
- 22 world-class aspirations comes an even greater responsibility
- 23 to the community it is in, and particularly the
- 24 Allston-Brighton community. This is why I am asking for your
- 25 help through the DPH DoN process to hold Boston Children's

- 1 accountable and not forget about our community.
- 2 So given what I have just said, I just want to be
- 3 clear and outline a few things that I would expect when it
- 4 comes to holding them accountable. First, I would hope that
- 5 the community engagement with the local community defined as
- 6 Allston-Brighton be robust. What I mean by that is that local
- 7 community organizations, parents, teachers, elected officials,
- 8 and all others be involved in and consulted in the
- 9 decision-making process when it comes to changes to Franciscan
- 10 Children's Hospital and the community investments as a result
- of this project. I don't mean these groups being informed of
- 12 decisions that have already been made. I would rather like to
- 13 see them be part, a real part, of the decision-marking
- 14 process.
- 15 And lastly, and the most important part of it --
- thing, I would hope, is that in Franciscan's own most recent
- 17 community health needs assessment, it defined its "Community
- 18 served" as the Allston-Brighton neighborhood because
- 19 Franciscan's "Recognizes the importance of focusing efforts
- 20 directly in the neighborhood where the hospital is located and
- 21 addressing the health needs of the local community." To that
- 22 end, I hope they use -- that Children's Hospital, and through
- 23 this process, use those words and remember that the
- 24 \$24 million that is generated by the 5 percent of this project
- 25 that has to be committed through the community health needs

- 1 initiative be spent in Allston-Brighton consistent with the
- 2 needs assessment that was done by Franciscan Children's
- 3 Hospital. I would prefer that this be spent on -- in the area
- 4 of housing, but also we have a health center. We have an
- 5 addiction treatment center, and we have some projects in the
- 6 neighborhood like the Jewish Health Kitchen that is in
- 7 desperate need of funding.
- 8 This is an exciting time. It's an exciting time for
- 9 me because of my long history with Franciscan Children's
- 10 Hospital. I look forward to this process. I want to thank --
- 11 in particular, I would like to thank Dr. Churchwell for his
- 12 commitment to not forgetting about the mission of
- 13 Franciscan's, which is so unique, and we don't want to lose
- 14 that mission.
- 15 So, thank you again for taking me out of turn, and I
- 16 look forward to working with you as we move into the future.
- 17 MR. RENAUD: Thank you. I would now like to invite
- 18 Shelia Dillon from the Mayor's Housing Office to speak.
- MS. DILLION: Can you hear me?
- MR. RENAUD: Yes.
- 21 MS. DILLON: Okay, great. So, once again, yes,
- 22 thank you for taking me out of turn. I just want to very
- 23 quickly comment on the potential community benefits that would
- 24 be associated with this exciting project.
- Like the good representative, we are very

- 1 comfortable with the resources, the community benefits,
- 2 staying and really benefiting the Allston-Brighton community.
- 3 I am excited to think that some of these resources, the
- 4 community benefit resources, could be used in the area of
- 5 housing. Allston-Brighton is a neighborhood where there is so
- 6 much pressure on the families and individuals that live there
- 7 as they are not able to afford rent and sales prices. Allston
- 8 and Brighton also have below the citywide average of
- 9 income-restricted housing. We all need to work collectively
- 10 to increase that. They also have 26 percent of the off-campus
- 11 students that every year want to live in the Allston-Brighton
- 12 neighborhood, putting additional pressure on the communities.
- So, I would, you know, make my office available,
- 14 Mayor's Office of Housing, the Mayor's Office as well, and
- 15 really work with the community, work with Children's, work
- 16 with everyone that is very, very excited about this project to
- 17 really shape community benefits. But, once again, do feel
- 18 comfortable that the money -- the benefits stay to help the
- 19 residents most impacted. And I would, you know, agree that
- 20 housing is one of the greatest strains for the residents of
- 21 this neighborhood and, you know, causes significant
- 22 health-related issues. So I look forward to working with you
- 23 further, but I do want to go on the record with those
- 24 thoughts. Thank you.
- MR. RENAUD: Thank you. As a reminder, if you would

- 1 like to testify, please press Star 1.
- Operator, may we have our next speaker, please?
- 3 OPERATOR: The next speaker is Melanie McLaughlin.
- 4 Your line is open.
- 5 MS. McLAUGHLIN: Hello. My name is Melanie
- 6 McLaughlin, and I live in Medford, Massachusetts. I am here
- 7 in support of the Determination of Need application for a
- 8 substantial capital expenditure at Franciscan Hospital for
- 9 Children.
- In 2007, our third child was born with Down syndrome
- 11 and a congenital heart defect requiring open heart surgery.
- 12 At just two months old, her heart decided to strawberry, and
- 13 was repaired at Boston Children's Hospital. Today Gracie is a
- 14 happy soon-to-be 16-year-old young woman. Over the years, she
- 15 has had a dozen subsequent surgeries all with BCH, and we
- 16 consider ourselves fortunate. We live only six or so miles
- 17 from the Longwood medical area. We met some families that
- 18 traveled from across the world to get the care we have in our
- 19 backyard. But now since the pandemic and with increasing need
- 20 for behavioral health support, the area can feel overwhelming,
- 21 especially for children with anxiety and social and emotional
- 22 needs like Gracie. Gracie is often afraid at dental
- 23 appointments and has had dental surgery historically with the
- 24 hospital. The calmer atmosphere of a more remote location
- 25 like Franciscan's will benefit children who are our most

- 1 vulnerable, children like my daughter.
- 2 Finally, as a project director at the Federation for
- 3 Children with Special Needs and a school committee member in
- 4 my community, I have witnessed the increased need for
- 5 behavioral health supports for children and youth. The
- 6 extension of pediatric behavioral health supports for children
- 7 with complex healthcare needs should be championed. That
- 8 expansion, a collaboration with an internationally renowned
- 9 provider like Boston Children's Hospital and a community-based
- 10 care organization with a history of relationship building like
- 11 Franciscan Children's Hospital, is both a need and a welcome
- 12 relief for the community of children and youth with complex
- 13 healthcare needs. Thank you.
- MR. RENAUD: Thank you. Operator, may we have our
- 15 next speaker, please?
- 16 OPERATOR: The next caller is Kyra Mihalick. Your
- 17 line is open.
- MS. MIHALICK: Good evening. My name is Kyra
- 19 Mihalick, and I'm the Senior Director of Rehabilitative
- 20 Therapy at Franciscan Children's and a physical therapist by
- 21 training. I am testifying to express my support for the
- 22 Children's Medical Center/Franciscan Children's Determination
- 23 of Need project.
- I've had the opportunity to work in various
- 25 healthcare organizations throughout the country. In my

- 1 current position at Franciscan Children's, I oversee a
- 2 talented team of physical therapists, occupational therapists,
- 3 and speech pathologists who provide care to our patients. The
- 4 rehab patients we serve come to us with various conditions.
- 5 Our patients range from those with brain and spinal cord
- 6 injuries to those needing postoperative recovery to patients
- 7 needing to wean off of ventilators.
- 8 From my experience across the nation and in the
- 9 working with patients, families, and staff at Franciscan's
- 10 therapy department, I can enthusiastically say that a new
- 11 building will make a tremendous difference in the care that we
- 12 provide to our patients and families. Private rooms and
- increased child and family spaces will improve the therapeutic
- 14 environment for our patients and families. Buildings designed
- 15 with improved patient flow, accessibility and technology will
- 16 improve work flows, collaboration and staff experience.
- 17 Larger treatment areas will allow us to utilize the
- 18 state-of-the-art equipment that families otherwise seek in
- 19 rehabilitation programs outside of New England.
- The proposed investment will also enable Franciscan
- 21 to expand its rehab services to reach even more children and
- 22 families at such a critical time in healthcare. According to
- 23 the Children's Hospital Association, the population of
- 24 medically complex children is growing by 5 percent annually.
- 25 With that growth, the need for pediatric rehabilitative

- 1 therapies is increasing rapidly. The acuity of Franciscan
- 2 patients have grown steadily over the last several years. The
- 3 campus needs a state-of-the-art building that aligns with the
- 4 complexity of the children that we serve.
- 5 On behalf of our rehab patients and staff, I express
- 6 my extreme enthusiasm for this important and timely project.
- 7 Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for this
- 8 DoN application.
- 9 MR. RENAUD: Thank you. Operator, may we have the
- 10 next speaker, please?
- 11 OPERATOR: The next speaker is Sarah Spence. Your
- 12 line is open.
- MS. SPENCE: Hi. My name is Sarah Spence. I'm a
- 14 child neurologist and the codirector of the Autism Spectrum
- 15 Center at Boston Children's Hospital, and I'm speaking in
- 16 strong support of the DoN for Franciscan.
- 17 I'm a provider dedicated to the care of patients
- 18 with neurodevelopmental disabilities, such as intellectual
- 19 disability and autism and related disorders. And I can't
- 20 emphasize strongly enough the need for further intensive
- 21 placements, behavioral health placements, for those patients
- 22 which this expansion at Franciscan's would provide.
- 23 I would like to make four major points. Number one,
- 24 there are just not enough appropriate inpatient programs in
- 25 the Commonwealth for individuals with neurodevelopmental

- 1 disabilities, and the proposed program will address this
- 2 directly. Previously we had to send patients out of state to
- 3 Bradley Hospital in Rhode Island and Hampstead in New
- 4 Hampshire, and those programs aren't even taking our patients
- 5 any longer because they won't take out-of-state Medicaid.
- 6 Number two, there is also a huge need for a range of services
- 7 beyond inpatient; things like partial hospitalization
- 8 programs, intensive outpatient programs, which really
- 9 currently don't exist for individuals with NVD, and these are
- 10 planned at the expansion at Franciscan. Three, sadly, the
- 11 current environment is that there is a critical shortage of
- 12 community-based therapeutic services creating the need for
- 13 these more intensive services. This population needs
- 14 continuous and consistent support or they end up in crisis.
- 15 And four, when they're in crisis, patients end up in the
- 16 emergency department. And I can't tell you enough that this
- 17 is the worst possible place for them. This is true even at a
- 18 place like Boston Children's where there's a robust autism
- 19 center. We have good ancillary staff. We have training
- 20 programs for providers. We work directly with the emergency
- 21 department staff, and still the situation creates a
- 22 significant safety issue for both patients and staff. I have
- 23 had many patients in my practice practically living in the ED
- 24 for weeks, if not more than a month. And there they just
- 25 don't get the care they need and, frankly, can become

- 1 traumatized. So I strongly support this expansion at
- 2 Franciscan, and I want to thank the DPH staff for the
- 3 opportunity to testify.
- 4 MR. RENAUD: Thank you. Operator, may we have our
- 5 next speaker.
- 6 OPERATOR: The next speaker is Elizabeth Brown.
- 7 Your line is open.
- 8 MS. BROWN: Good evening. My name is Elizabeth
- 9 Brown, and I am the CEO at Charles River Community Health. We
- 10 are a non-profit, federally qualified health center founded in
- 11 Allston-Brighton providing care to patients in need for 49
- 12 years. Our mission is to partner with individuals and
- 13 families so they can thrive and lead healthier lives by
- 14 delivering the comprehensive, integrated, and equitable
- 15 primary healthcare that matters most to them. Our board of
- 16 directors live or work in the community, and the majority of
- 17 our board members are patients of the health center.
- In 2022, Charles River Community Health served
- 19 13,800 patients. Of those, a little over 25 percent, or about
- 20 3,600 were children. The families we serve are some of the
- 21 most vulnerable in our community. 80 percent of our patients
- 22 live below the poverty line earning no more than \$30,000 a
- 23 year for a family of four. 87 percent identify as being from
- 24 communities of color, and 73 percent need services in a
- 25 language other than English; the third highest rate for all

- 1 community health centers in the Commonwealth. It reflects the
- 2 rich diversity of the Allston-Brighton community. We provide
- 3 care to patients of all backgrounds, regardless of insurance
- 4 or immigration status or ability to pay. Our patient
- 5 population would face significant linguistic, financial, and
- 6 other barriers to care and health inequities if not for the
- 7 fantastic work of our staff and our board.
- 8 Charles River works closely with many clinical and
- 9 community partners if there are services a patient needs that
- 10 we don't provide, such as hospital or specialty care, and to
- 11 connect families with if their needs are more significant than
- 12 what we can meet as a primary care provider. We rely on
- 13 partners like Franciscan Children's to meet these needs. Like
- 14 Charles River, they have been in the Allston-Brighton
- 15 community for decades with a similar mission, providing care
- 16 to children of all backgrounds regardless of the ability to
- 17 pay.
- 18 Charles River also has a long-standing and valuable
- 19 clinical affiliation with Children's Hospital to ensure that
- 20 our pediatric patients receive the specialty and hospital care
- 21 that they need.
- 22 As you may know, the healthcare system overall is
- 23 really being stretched to the limit at this time and needs to
- 24 expand to meet the greatly increased demand fore care coming
- 25 out of the pandemic. Many types of preventive and chronic

- 1 care were appropriately deferred during the pandemic. Places
- 2 like Charles River Community Health and Franciscan Children's
- 3 are now facing unprecedented demand for care.
- 4 Charles River Community Health fully supports
- 5 Franciscan Children's plan to renovate and expand its
- 6 facilities so that they can serve more patients. This is
- 7 especially critical for dental services for children with
- 8 special healthcare needs as the health center's dental clinic
- 9 is not equipped to serve this patient population.
- 10 In addition, it is absolutely critical for
- 11 Franciscan Children's to expand its pediatric behavioral
- 12 health capacity. We all read in the news every day about the
- increased mental health needs among children coming out of the
- 14 pandemic. There are not enough providers to meet this need,
- 15 especially for children, and so it is vital that Franciscan
- 16 Children's have the facilities and capacity to meet the
- 17 healthcare needs of the community both now and in the future.
- 18 Finally, given Franciscan Children's has been in the
- 19 Allston-Brighton community for about 75 years, I also strongly
- 20 advocate for community benefits funding coming out of this
- 21 project to be allocated to projects in Allston-Brighton. I
- 22 share some concerns I have heard in the Allston-Brighton
- 23 community that because Franciscan Children's has now merged
- 24 with Children's Hospital that community benefits funds may
- 25 perhaps be allocated to Children's Hospital's wider service

- 1 area. We need to ensure funding and its impact are felt here
- 2 in Allston-Brighton so that continued investments are made to
- 3 meet the needs of this community. Thank you for the
- 4 opportunity to provide remarks this evening.
- 5 MR. RENAUD: Thank you. Operator, may we have our
- 6 next speaker?
- 7 OPERATOR: The next speaker is Danna Mauch. Your
- 8 line is open.
- 9 MS. MAUCH: Thank you, Commissioner, and staff of
- 10 the DPH Determination of Need Program. I appreciate the
- 11 opportunity to speak this evening.
- I am the president and CEO of the Massachusetts
- 13 Association for Mental Health. We were founded over a century
- 14 ago in 1923 and have been dedicated to promoting mental health
- 15 and wellbeing while preventing behavioral health conditions
- and associated disability for people across the Commonwealth.
- 17 Child mental health is our highest priority, and we are
- 18 committed to advancing prevention, early intervention,
- 19 effective treatment, and research for children and their
- 20 families.
- 21 I want to speak tonight in support of the Children's
- 22 Medical Center and Franciscan Children's Determination of Need
- 23 application to revitalize its facility in Brighton, Mass, and
- 24 to add some very critical services. This war, this plan, is
- 25 in direct response to the unmet needs for intensive behavioral

- 1 health treatment of children, particularly those with complex
- 2 conditions.
- 3 Franciscan serves children of complex medical mental
- 4 health and educational needs, and they have been doing so
- 5 skillfully for a long time, but lacking in a certain capacity
- 6 needed to respond to the full need. It's a crucial
- 7 institution to meet needs and unmet needs in the behavioral
- 8 healthcare system in the Commonwealth, and the challenge of
- 9 having too few beds, particularly specialty beds as earlier
- 10 described, is really poignant for the children and families
- 11 who are affected.
- 12 Child and adolescent mental health and wellbeing was
- 13 severely disrupted in the pandemic, and frankly, that was on
- 14 the heels of the pre-pandemic crisis of unmet need. Children
- 15 and families at risk from the wait are -- this has been going
- on for many years. Children's Hospital is the top inpatient
- 17 boarding facility in the state. And if you look at the
- 18 Department of Mental Health data on expedited psychiatric
- 19 inpatient admission, those people who have been waiting for
- 20 several days or longer in the state, there are -- just in the
- 21 month of October, there were 127 patients who had been waiting
- 22 long periods of time. Nearly 15 percent of those were young
- 23 people, not only with mental health conditions, but autism
- 24 spectrum disorders, another several percent with intellectual
- 25 and developmental disabilities. For 20 percent of them, they

- 1 were waiting because there was simply no bed available.
- 2 Another 5 percent needed a specialty bed, and another
- 3 6 percent were so medically complex none of the beds in the
- 4 system could handle them. So, out of all of the people
- 5 waiting, about 30 percent of them were kids with co-occurring
- 6 conditions and need of specialty beds, the very kind that
- 7 Franciscan is critically planning to develop, and they are
- 8 uniquely qualified.
- 9 In closing, I just want to say that we applaud the
- 10 hospital for stepping up to commit a substantial effort and
- 11 resources and respond to unmet needs of children with
- 12 behavioral health conditions and complex conditions. Thank
- 13 you.
- MR. RENAUD: Thank you. Operator, may we have our
- 15 next speaker.
- OPERATOR: The next speaker is Grace Alden. Your
- 17 line is open.
- MS. ALDEN: Hello. My name is Grace Alden, and I'm
- 19 a charge nurse on the medical unit at Franciscan Children's.
- 20 I'm here tonight because I wholly support the Children's
- 21 Medical Center/Franciscan Children's Determination of Need
- 22 application to revitalize our facility in Brighton.
- 23 I have had the pleasure of working at Franciscan
- 24 Children's for the past six years as a registered nurse, both
- 25 as a staff nurse at the bedside caring for children with

- 1 complex medical conditions, and in the leadership position as
- 2 a charge nurse on the inpatient medical unit.
- Franciscan Children's is the only post-acute care
- 4 facility in the Northeast region serving medically complex
- 5 children and children needing rehabilitative services. We are
- 6 the only facility in the area that accepts babies on
- 7 ventilators. The work we do is life changing and I'm so proud
- 8 to be a part of it.
- 9 Every patient we serve at Franciscan Children's
- 10 requires expert individualized care and receives that care in
- 11 a compassionate environment from people who are passionate
- 12 about helping children and families in need. We also provide
- 13 extensive care and education so that parents can take their
- 14 medically complex child home. I have discharged many of these
- 15 patients to their homes and families following extended-length
- 16 admissions and lengthy caregiver training, and the
- 17 overwhelming feeling of joy and accomplishment I feel never
- 18 gets old. Because of the specialized care we provide here at
- 19 Franciscan Children's, every patient has a chance to live
- 20 their life to their fullest potential. Unfortunately, our
- 21 current waitlist exceeds the capacity of the existing
- 22 building, and there are so many children who could benefit
- 23 from our care.
- 24 Through the proposed projects, Franciscan Children's
- 25 will construct a state-of-the-art family-friendly facility to

- 1 meet both the existing and growing needs of children who
- 2 require our specialized rehabilitative care. These new
- 3 medical units will make a huge difference in the lives of our
- 4 patients and families. Private rooms and enhanced
- 5 patient/family spaces will make our environment of care more
- 6 comfortable for families and improve the staff experience. An
- 7 increase in patient beds will also allows us to care for more
- 8 patients needing complex intra-disciplinary care.
- 9 My love for Franciscan Children's is deep, and I am
- 10 passionate about continuing the hospital's mission and values.
- 11 This proposed investment clearly demonstrates Franciscan's
- 12 commitment to the health and wellbeing of children throughout
- 13 Massachusetts. I am confident Franciscan Children's
- 14 investment in children and families and communities will have
- 15 a long-lasting impact and benefit future generations of
- 16 children for many years to come. Thank you for your time and
- 17 consideration.
- 18 MR. RENAUD: Thank you. Operator, may we have our
- 19 next speaker?
- OPERATOR: The next speaker is Timothy Burke. Your
- 21 line is open.
- MR. BURKE: Hi. Good evening. Thank you,
- 23 Commissioner Renaud, for the opportunity to testify this
- 24 evening. My name is Timothy Burke, and I'm here representing
- 25 a 10-taxpayer group comprised of executive leaders, board

- 1 members, and supporters of the Addiction Treatment Center of
- 2 New England located at 77 Warren Street, which is directly
- 3 across the street from Franciscan Children's Hospital, and
- 4 also the Granada House, which is a residential recovery
- 5 program located in Allston. Both of these non-profits provide
- 6 essential services for Boston and the surrounding communities.
- 7 We have been providing these services in this community for
- 8 over 13 years. I am also a longtime Brighton resident. I'm
- 9 active in the community and participating in several Allston
- 10 and Brighton social services and political organizations, and
- 11 I can speak firsthand about the needs of our neighborhood and
- 12 city. Additionally, I'm licensed clinical social worker and
- 13 have spent the last 18 years as a CEO of the Addiction
- 14 Treatment Center before retiring in 2019, but I remain on the
- 15 board of directors for the Addiction Treatment Center, and I'm
- 16 also on the board of the Granada House. I'm passionate about
- 17 providing services to those afflicted by addictions.
- 18 Just two years ago, Franciscan Children's own
- 19 community needs health assessment defined Allston-Brighton
- 20 specifically as the hospital's primary service area and focus,
- 21 outlining many of the health disparities and impacts our
- 22 residents face. As we have seen across the city, substance
- 23 abuse and the opioid epidemic have ravaged our communities,
- 24 sparing no neighborhood, street, or family. This is why the
- 25 DPH's established behavioral health program is responding to

- 1 the opioid crisis as a health priority. Area institutions
- 2 like Boston Children's should seek to invest heavily within
- 3 Brighton and Allston as part of their community health
- 4 initiative and community benefits investing.
- 5 I'm here today to ask for your support through this
- 6 process to hold Boston Children's accountable for their
- 7 promise and to ensure that any community health initiative
- 8 dollars are invested right here in Boston for health
- 9 priorities like addressing the opioid crisis. Our center is
- 10 directly across the street and has very real needs, and the
- 11 Granada House is less than a mile away. I am happy to meet
- 12 with anyone from the Boston Children's Hospital at any time to
- 13 discuss this issue.
- 14 As an integral part of the Allston-Brighton
- 15 community, we expect Boston Children's to meaningfully step up
- 16 to the plate in Brighton and make material investments with
- 17 our neighborhood and Boston. Please help our residents in
- 18 advocating for the very real investments and dedication to our
- 19 communities from this project. I thank you for your time, and
- 20 I look forward to working closely with you on these important
- 21 issues.
- MR. RENAUD: Thank you. Operator, may we have our
- 23 next speaker?
- OPERATOR: The next speaker is Dr. Siobhian Sprott.
- 25 Your line is open.

- 1 MS. SPROTT: Thank you. Hello, my name is
- 2 Dr. Siobhian Sprott. I am a board-certified pediatric dentist
- 3 through the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry and the vice
- 4 president of dental services at Franciscan Children's. Thank
- 5 you for the opportunity to speak in support of the Children's
- 6 Medical Center/Franciscan Children's Determination of Need
- 7 application to revitalize our facility in Brighton.
- I have been a practicing dentist for over 15 years,
- 9 and I'm very passionate about the need for all children to
- 10 have access to quality dental care regardless of physical,
- 11 intellectual, or emotional disability. At Franciscan
- 12 Children's, dental surgery is a critical part of our mission.
- 13 We serve children with extensive dental needs, developmental
- 14 disabilities, complex medical conditions, and situational
- 15 anxiety.
- As an example, imagine having a child with a
- 17 diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder in need of multiple
- 18 fillings but who is unable to sit still or follow simple
- 19 commands in the traditional dental setting like you or I may
- 20 be able to, but yet still receiving the care that they need.
- 21 Sounds impossible, but we do the impossible for these kids.
- 22 Franciscan Children's is a market leader in
- 23 pediatric dental surgery providing nearly 70 percent of dental
- 24 surgery for children with complex needs in Massachusetts. We
- 25 are the only pediatric hospital in New England whose operating

- 1 rooms are dedicated solely to dental surgeries. Our three
- 2 dental ORs handled nearly 3,000 surgeries last year. As a
- 3 part of the proposed plan to revitalize our campus, we would
- 4 add a fourth dental OR. We already have more than 100
- 5 credentialed pediatric dentists from across the state
- 6 currently utilizing our ORs for their patients. By adding an
- 7 additional OR, we would be able to increase access to care by
- 8 accommodating more dentists, and most importantly, be able to
- 9 help more kids in need of our unique services.
- 10 On average, across the United States, the wait for a
- 11 pediatric dental patient with special needs to get an OR
- 12 appointment is 18 months, 18 months for a child with severe
- 13 dental needs who may also be in pain to get access to the
- 14 services they need. The addition of this fourth OR would
- 15 enable us to better meet the demands of our dentists and to
- 16 decrease wait times here in Massachusetts.
- 17 As a pediatric dental professional, I believe the
- 18 need to extend our operating room capacity through this
- 19 investment is paramount so we can continue to meet the rising
- 20 needs of children who require our services from across the
- 21 Commonwealth. I thank you for your time and consideration.
- MR. RENAUD: Thank you. Operator, may we have our
- 23 next speaker.
- OPERATOR: The next speaker is Casey Atkins. Your
- 25 line is open.

- 1 MS. ATKINS: Thank you so much. Thank you to the
- 2 Commission and to the Department of Public Health for this. I
- 3 am here today in support of the Children's Hospital and
- 4 Franciscan Determination of Need.
- 5 My name is Casey Atkins, and I have a 10-year-old
- 6 child who is on the autism spectrum. He has ADHD, anxiety,
- 7 and depression. Over the past few years, he has struggled
- 8 with his mental health coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 9 In the fall of 2022, he was in crisis, and I had to
- 10 make the agonizing decision to bring him to the emergency room
- 11 at Boston Children's Hospital in order to get an inpatient
- 12 placement for him at a mental health facility. Every single
- 13 one of his providers expressed concern for what the experience
- 14 in the emergency room would be like for him. But I had no
- 15 choice. I could no longer keep him safe at home. We chose to
- 16 go to Boston Children's Hospital because they are, frankly,
- 17 the only place that I would trust with my child and his
- 18 complex profile.
- 19 We arrived in the ER, and we were coordinated in
- 20 through our practitioners in the autism program at Boston
- 21 Children's. The ER is a terrible place in general, and it is
- 22 doubly terrible for children who are on the autism spectrum.
- 23 It's scary, it's loud, and it is absolutely chaotic,
- 24 especially for children with complex sensory needs. We spent
- 25 two weeks waiting desperately for a placement for him. And it

- 1 became abundantly clear that the combination of his age and
- 2 his neurodivergent profile would make it very hard to find the
- 3 right fit for him or, frankly, any fit at all.
- 4 After our 14th night in the hospital, it was time to
- 5 make another agonizing decision to leave without getting an
- 6 inpatient placement and going back home to determine how to
- 7 support him from there. The hospital was able to coordinate
- 8 wraparound services for us for the Children's Behavioral
- 9 Health Initiative, a set of services that we have, frankly,
- 10 tried to receive a year prior but were unable to. It took
- 11 being hospitalized for him to gain access to those services.
- There is a critical need right now for dedicated
- 13 mental health services for children like mine who are on the
- 14 spectrum, or who have our developmental and neurological
- 15 unique profiles. I am an ardent supporter of this project as
- 16 it will fill a critical need for these children and for other
- 17 families who need to know that there is a place for their
- 18 children to receive services and that they are not left to
- 19 weather this alone. Thank you.
- MR. RENAUD: Thank you. Operator, may we have our
- 21 next speaker?
- OPERATOR: The next speaker is Dr. Kevin Churchwell.
- 23 Your line is open.
- MR. CHURCHWELL: Good evening. My name is Dr. Kevin
- 25 Churchwell. I'm privileged to serve as president and CEO of

- 1 Children's Medical Center Corporation, the parent company of
- 2 Franciscan Hospital for Children and Boston Children's
- 3 Hospital.
- 4 Boston Children's is the only freestanding
- 5 comprehensive pediatric care system in Massachusetts. We have
- 6 a long history of serving children from across the state, many
- 7 with complex medical and mental health needs regardless of
- 8 their race, ethnicity, where they live, or who pays for their
- 9 care.
- I would like to begin my remarks by thanking the
- 11 Department of Public Health for the work you do to promote the
- 12 health and wellbeing of the people of Massachusetts. In
- 13 particular, I would like to thank you for your commitment to
- 14 give children a healthy start. Every day everyone from every
- 15 corner of the Boston Children's organization works to honor
- 16 and uphold that same commitment. I would also like to thank
- 17 the Allston-Brighton community which has been so engaged and
- 18 welcoming as we work together to get this proposal right. And
- 19 I also would like to thank Mayor Wu's office and
- 20 Representatives Honan and Moran of their endorsement and
- 21 leadership. Big, great things only happen when there is
- 22 support, enthusiasm, and leadership. Thank you.
- 23 Our creation of Franciscan Children's will allow us
- 24 to align our respective strengths to develop a more
- 25 coordinated and connected continuum of care for specialized

- 1 pediatric mental health services, plus acute rehabilitative
- 2 care for medically complex children and dental care that will
- 3 improve the lives of children and families in Massachusetts
- 4 and throughout New England. Together we will modernize the
- 5 Franciscan Children's campus and enhance critical programs and
- 6 services offered there.
- 7 Our campus modernization plan is targeted to
- 8 increase access to a full continuum of high-quality mental
- 9 health, post-acute medical and rehabilitation care, and
- 10 specialized inpatient beds, including those providing care to
- 11 pediatric patients with autism and neurodevelopmental
- 12 disorders.
- Our plan is anchored by the creation of a more
- 14 diverse workforce, expanded community and school-based
- 15 prevention programs and an increase in research. This project
- 16 provides us the facilities to continue to promote health
- 17 equity and will not restrict the accessibility of services
- 18 from vulnerable and/or Medicaid-eligible individuals.
- 19 Franciscan Children's serves a vulnerable and
- 20 underserved population with the majority of their patients
- 21 covered by the Medicaid program. In addition, the medical and
- 22 mental health complexities and social challenges of the
- 23 patient population frequently requires the ongoing
- 24 coordination of care with one or more state agencies and local
- 25 school systems.

- 1 Our new system will focus on improved prevention,
- 2 identification and treatment, and provide children the care
- 3 they need where and when they need it all with one point of
- 4 contact per family.
- 5 Thank you for the opportunity to share our plan for
- 6 creating a new system that will better serve the growing needs
- 7 of our children, families, and community. The modernization
- 8 of Franciscan campus is an essential component of that plan,
- 9 and I ask that you approve our application. Thank you.
- 10 MR. RENAUD: Thank you. Operator, may we have our
- 11 next speaker?
- 12 OPERATOR: There are no speakers in queue. It is
- 13 Star 1 to queue up for public comment.
- MR. RENAUD: At this point, we will wait to see if
- 15 additional speakers present, and I will be back on in a few
- 16 minutes. Thank you.
- 17 OPERATOR: We do have Richard Rouse in queue.
- 18 Richard, your line is open.
- 19 MR. ROUSE: Thank you very much. Can you hear me?
- MR. RENAUD: Yes, we can.
- 21 MR. ROUSE: Yes. Thank you, Dennis. My -- as I
- 22 said, my name is Richard Rouse. I am a 70-year resident of
- 23 the city of Boston, and I currently serve as the Chairman of
- 24 the Board of Directors of the Addiction Treatment Center of
- 25 New England, a non-profit across the street at Warren Street.

- I agree with everything that has been said by all of
- 2 the testifiers. There is certainly a critical need for all of
- 3 the services provided. I joined with Representative Moran and
- 4 Housing Czar, Sheila Dillon, and Tim Burke, Elizabeth Brown,
- 5 to be among those people who are concerned that the
- 6 Allston-Brighton community be served as well by the community
- 7 benefits process. So I wish to make sure that that focus is
- 8 intensively followed for Allston-Brighton. And with that, I
- 9 hope that the board gives this a very positive approval for a
- 10 much-needed project and look forward to working with you
- 11 through the community. Congratulations, and thank you for
- 12 your work at the Department of Need process at DPH. Thank
- 13 you.
- MR. RENAUD: Thank you. Operator, may we have our
- 15 next speaker?
- OPERATOR: There is no one in queue currently. It
- 17 is Star 1 to queue up for public comment. Again, Star 1 from
- 18 your phone to queue up for public comment.
- 19 MR. RENAUD: At this point, we will wait a period of
- 20 time to see if we have any additional speakers.
- 21 OPERATOR: We do have comment from Stacy Drury.
- 22 Your line is open.
- MS. DRURY: Good evening. Can you hear me?
- MR. RENAUD: Yes, we can.
- MS. DRURY: Great. My name is Dr. Stacy Drury, and

- 1 I am the Chief of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Boston
- 2 Children's Hospital. I am here to speak in strong support of
- 3 the Determination of Need application for substantial capital
- 4 expenditure at Franciscan Hospital for Children.
- 5 Franciscan Children's is a critical institution to
- 6 the healthcare and educational landscape, serving children
- 7 with complex medical, mental health, and educational needs
- 8 from neighborhoods across Boston, the state, and the New
- 9 England region. Through the proposed project, Franciscan
- 10 Children's will construct the state-of-the-art, family
- 11 friendly, community facing facility to meet both the existing
- 12 and growing needs of children requiring behavioral health and
- 13 rehabilitative care, locating the entire continuum of care in
- 14 one location.
- In addition, Franciscan Children's will enhance
- 16 services to children who require dental surgery through the
- 17 expansion of its existing operating room capacity. We
- 18 envision this campus as a state-of-the-art training
- 19 environment for the existing workforce providing services to
- 20 children with mental and behavioral health needs and the next
- 21 generation of providers.
- 22 As the new Psychiatrist in Chief at Boston
- 23 Children's Hospital, it is clear that the current mental
- 24 healthcare crisis needs both short and long-term solutions.
- 25 Often behavioral and mental health treatment centers are

- 1 located in places other specialties have vacated for more
- 2 updated facilities, leaving child mental and behavioral
- 3 healthcare as an afterthought, perpetuating the persistent
- 4 stigmatization around child mental illness.
- In addition, despite significant investment from the
- 6 state, Boston Children's Hospital and Franciscan Children's
- 7 Hospital and our other academic partners, there are
- 8 substantial gaps in services, inadequate connection between
- 9 different providers and levels of care, and rates of boarding
- 10 patients continue to be high in Massachusetts. More than one
- 11 third of youth in Massachusetts struggle with significant
- 12 symptoms of mental and behavioral illness and rates of
- 13 suicidal ideations, suicide attempts, and suicide continue to
- 14 increase.
- The planned campus at Franciscan Children's will
- 16 signal to the community, state, and country our commitment to
- 17 ensuring all children thrive and our recognition that without
- 18 child mental health, there is no physical health. The campus
- 19 will include areas for training, education, and outreach
- 20 programs that will be designed as a place of healing,
- 21 recovery, and health social-emotional growth.
- In addition to being home to state-of-the-art
- 23 clinical programs, the proposed plans include creating space
- 24 for training of mental health providers at all levels and will
- 25 integrate the strengths of Boston Children's research and

- 1 innovation portfolio, laying the ground work for
- 2 transformative research and early identification, prevention,
- 3 treatment, and some day, cure.
- 4 Bringing together Franciscan Children's and Boston
- 5 Children's on this new campus will synergistically enhance
- 6 both systems' school-based mental health services. Together
- 7 these programs currently serve 23 different schools, and
- 8 within this new campus, we will offer a learning
- 9 collaboratives for school-based clinicians as well as
- 10 educational and outreach activities for teachers, principals
- 11 and parents.
- 12 I envision significant strengthening of our
- 13 partnerships with community programs including the Italian
- 14 Home, Youth Villages Central, Centro Presente, and many
- 15 others.
- The proposed investment will help Franciscan
- 17 Children's increase its impact and reach even more families
- 18 and more patients, clearly demonstrating the hospital's
- 19 commitment to the health and wellbeing of children throughout
- 20 Massachusetts. The project will ensure that patients and
- 21 families have access to the full range of high-quality,
- 22 integrated pediatric care services.
- 23 Finally, this project will address a substantial gap
- 24 in the care continuum for children with autism and
- 25 neurodevelopmental disorders through the creation of new

- 1 inpatient, partial-day programs, and intensive outpatient
- 2 programs for this vulnerable population.
- 3 An example of the importance of this proposed campus
- 4 transformation for workplace recruitments, Boston Children's
- 5 Hospital recently hired Dr. Matthew Siegel to be the Chief of
- 6 Clinical Enterprises at Boston Children's and the Chief
- 7 Behavioral Health Officer at Franciscan Children's.
- 8 Dr. Siegel is the founder and principal investigator of the
- 9 autism and development disorders inpatient research
- 10 collaborative and the founder of the first learning health
- 11 network on inpatient units serving people with developmental
- 12 disabilities and his recruitment is the first of many thought
- 13 leaders that we expect to join us in this important project.
- 14 I am confident Franciscan Children's investment in
- 15 children, families, and communities will have a long-lasting
- 16 impact and benefit future generations of children. This is an
- 17 unprecedented opportunity to say to children, families,
- 18 communities and the nation that we are committed to ensuring
- 19 every child from every background, culture, and race have the
- 20 tools and skills they need to thrive in an ever changing and
- 21 challenging world.
- I ask DPH to approve the Children's Medical
- 23 Center/Franciscan Children's Determination of Need application
- 24 to revitalize this facility in Brighton. I would like to
- 25 thank the staff for the opportunity to testify tonight.

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- 1 MR. RENAUD: Thank you. Operator, may we have our
- 2 next speaker.
- 3 OPERATOR: The next speaker is Anabela Gomes. Your
- 4 line is open.
- 5 MS. GOMES: Can you hear me?
- 6 OPERATOR: We can hear you.
- 7 MS. GOMES: Thank you for the opportunity to
- 8 testify. My name is Anabela Gomes, resident of Brighton. I
- 9 am here representing a group comprised of Brighton residents.
- 10 I also serve as zoning chair of the Brighton Allston
- 11 Improvement Association, a neighborhood association which
- 12 serves the community, an organization reviewing development,
- 13 zoning variances, quality of life and testifies on behalf of
- 14 the BIA at the City of Boston Zoning Board of Appeals.
- Franciscan Children's Hospital and its campus have
- 16 served as the pillar of our neighborhood since its inception.
- 17 Families from across the neighborhood and Boston have come to
- 18 rely on the clinical team and community-based school. To echo
- 19 Michael Moran's words, we all know and agree the Franciscan
- 20 campus needs to be modernized and updated to meet today's
- 21 patient needs. We wholeheartedly support the response to that
- 22 need, and have -- and to have a world-class institution like
- 23 Boston Children's Hospital come to Brighton and recognize both
- 24 the needs and opportunities that exist within our committee is
- 25 exciting. However, with Boston Children's world-class

- 1 operation, we ask for your support through this process to
- 2 hold Boston Children's accountable for their promises and to
- 3 ensure that any community health initiative dollars are
- 4 invested right here in this neighborhood of Boston.
- 5 Just two years ago, Franciscan Children's own
- 6 community health needs assessment defined Allston-Brighton
- 7 specifically as the hospital's primary service area and focus.
- 8 This assessment clearly shows that Allston-Brighton community
- 9 and social detriments of health that affects its residents
- 10 should be central to any Boston Children's project and CHA
- 11 investment, which, by the way, DPH requirements establish the
- 12 CHA as a 5 percent of its project's total value as a minimum
- 13 expectation. Nothing precludes a DoN applicant, and certainly
- 14 Boston Children's, from dedicating a higher percentage of its
- 15 project costs to local CHA investments within its home
- 16 community. As an integral part of the Allston-Brighton
- 17 community, we expect Boston Children's to meaningfully step up
- 18 to the plate in Brighton and make material investment within
- 19 the neighborhood and Boston. Please help our residents in
- 20 advocating for a very real investment and dedication to our
- 21 community this project institution demands. Thank you for
- 22 your time, and I look forward to working closely with you on
- 23 this project important issue. Thank you.
- MR. RENAUD: Thank you. Operator, may we have our
- 25 next speaker?

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1	OPERATOR: There is no one in queue currently. It		
2	is Star 1 if you would like to make public comment. Again,		
3	please press Star and the number 1 on your phone to queue up		
4	for public comment.		
5	MR. RENAUD: We will wait a period of time to see if		
6	we have another presenter.		
7	OPERATOR: As a reminder, it is star and the		
8	number 1 one to queue up for public comment. Please press		
9	Star 1 if you like to make public comment. There are no		
10	callers in queue at this time.		
11			
12	(Brief pause)		
13			
14	OPERATOR: There are no callers in queue at this		
15	time. It is Star 1 to make a public comment.		
16	MR. RENAUD: A period of five minutes has now passed		
17	since we had a speaker in the queue, so this will now end our		
18	public hearing.		
19	As a reminder, written comments will be accepted		
20	through December 11, 2023. And I want to thank you for		
21	participating in this public hearing and have a good evening.		
22	OPERATOR: That does conclude today's call. Thank		
23	you for participating. You may disconnect at this time.		
24			

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1	CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER		
2			
3	I, Christine E. Borrelli, Registered Merit Reporter		
4	and Certified Court Reporter, a Notary Public, in and for the		
5	Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do certify that the public		
6	hearing regarding the Determination of Need Application		
7	#BCH-23082514-HE held on Thursday, November 30, 2023, was		
8	stenographically reported by me; that the transcript produced		
9	by me is a true and accurate record of the proceedings; that I		
10	am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the		
11	parties to the above action; and further that I am not a		
12	relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by		
13	the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested		
14	in the outcome of the action.		
15			
16	14. 6.14 8 35		
17	Christine E. Borrelli		
18	Notary Public MA CSR No. 102893		
19	111 OSK 1101 102033		
20	My Commission Expires: December 28, 2023		
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