



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality
Division of Health Care Facility Licensure & Certification
67 Forest Street, Marlborough, MA 01752

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February 4, 2020

Andrew M. Fuqua
SVP & General Counsel
Cambridge Health Alliance
1493 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
afuqua@challiance.org

BY EMAIL ONLY

Re: Cambridge Health Alliance – Closure of Satellite Emergency Facility Essential Service Finding

Dear Mr. Fuqua:

On January 30, 2020, the Department of Public Health ("Department") held a public hearing in response to the notification received from you on behalf of Cambridge Health Alliance – Somerville Hospital Campus ("Hospital") regarding the proposed closure of its Satellite Emergency Facility ("SEF"), effective April 2, 2020. As a result of its review, including testimony presented at the hearing, the Department has made a finding that the SEF services provided by the Hospital are in fact necessary for preserving access and health status within the Hospital's service area.

Accordingly, pursuant to 105 CMR 130.122(F), the Hospital is required to prepare a plan that details how access to the SEF services will be maintained for the residents of the service area. The plan must be submitted to the Department no later than 15 calendar days of receipt of this letter. The Hospital's plan must include the elements specified in 105 CMR 130.122(F) as listed below:

- (1) Information on utilization of the service prior to proposed closure;
- (2) Information on the location and service capacity of alternative delivery sites;

- (3) Travel times to alternative service delivery sites;
- (4) An assessment of transportation needs post closure and a plan for meeting those needs;
- (5) A protocol that details mechanisms to maintain continuity of care for current patients of the discontinued service;
- (6) A protocol that describes how patients in the Hospital's service area will obtain the services at alternative delivery sites.

In addition to the above, your plan must address the following concerns identified by the Department as a result of testimony shared at the public hearing held on January 30, 2020, and submitted to the Department in writing:

(1) Public Education: Your plan must include a public education plan that, at a minimum, shall include:

- (a) a plan to provide accurate and appropriate road signage in the Hospital's service area;
- (b) a public information campaign about the remaining services available at the Hospital, modifications in preexisting services, and the circumstances under which it is appropriate to call "911";
- (c) written notification to ambulance services and regional councils, of the services to be provided at the Hospital and a description of the type of ambulance transport that is appropriate for the Hospital;
- (d) a list of meetings to be held with public officials and the affected parties listed in 105 CMR 130.823;
- (e) a clear and understandable description of the services that will remain at the Hospital and any changes in services currently provided at the Hospital; a plan for the dissemination of the description of services remaining at the Hospital, providing copies to the affected parties listed in 105 CMR 130.823 and including it in a public information campaign using local print and electronic media; and
- (f) a plan to continue the ongoing exchange of information regarding emergency services with the community network created when the SEF was established.

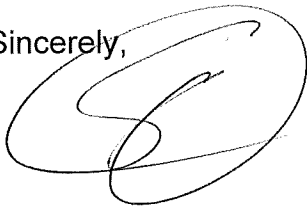
(2) Cultural and Linguistic Needs of Population Served: Your plan must include information on what the Hospital has done to assess the cultural and

linguistic needs of the population it currently serves, what those needs have been determined to be; and to what extent the alternate sites identified as likely to provide care after the proposed closure will be able to address the needs identified.

Under the provisions of 105 CMR 130.122(G), the plan the Hospital submits to the Department will be reviewed to determine if it appropriately assures access to the essential services in question following the closure of the SEF at the Hospital.

Thank you for your continued cooperation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact me at (617) 753-8134.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Davis', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Stephen Davis
Complaint Unit Manager/Deputy Director

Cc: E. Kelley
S. Lohnes
M. Callahan
K. Haynes
S. Moore