

HUSCH BLACKWELL

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October 2, 2023

Via Email

Stephen Davis, Division Director
Division of Health Care Facility Licensure and Certification
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
67 Forest Street
Marlborough, MA 01752

Re: Baystate Medical Center Response

Dear Mr. Davis:

We write on behalf of Baystate Medical Center (the “Medical Center”) in response to the Department of Public Health’s (the “Department”) letter, dated September 21, 2023, to request additional information regarding the closure plan for the Medical Center’s partial hospital program (“PHP”) service closure. The Medical Center offers the following information requested in the Department’s letter.

- 1. Mechanism to maintain continuity of care: In your response dated September 11, 2023, you stated that with respect to PHP patients, care will be transitioned to Valley Springs Hospital or another PHP program of a patient’s choosing. The Department requests a detailed description of when, how and by whom patients will be informed about the discontinuance of services and how patients will be informed of available sites and providers. Please include mechanisms to manage discharge, referral, transportation, and scheduling for PHP services with alternate sites.**

The Medical Center will maintain continuity of care for current PHP patients at the time of closure through several mechanisms. First, approximately three to four weeks prior to the closure date, all patients will be informed, including new patients upon intake into the program, that the program is scheduled to close and that a PHP program will open at Valley Springs Behavioral Health Hospital (“Valley Springs”). Patients will have the opportunity to ask questions about how the closure may affect treatment. Second, the Medical Center will continue operation of the PHP for two weeks following the opening of the Valley Springs PHP by so that current patients can finish treatment and be discharged without the need to be referred to another PHP.

If at the time of closure, the PHP treatment team determines that a patient continues to have clinical need for continued treatment, the PHP clinician will make a recommendation to the patient to continue treatment and inform them of suitable options for transitioning to another PHP program in the area, including Valley Springs. With the patient’s permission, the PHP clinician will make

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a referral to the program(s) of the patient's choice and once the patient has been accepted into a new PHP and consents to record transfer, the clinical will assist with transferring records to ensure continuity of the patient's treatment plan and assistance with making a plan for transportation. Please note that PHP is an ambulatory program and patients are generally responsible for their own transportation; however, the Medical Center offers assistance to patients in identifying and accessing resources for transportation.

We thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact Dominic Castillo, Esq., or me, if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Crystal Bloom

cc: E. Kelley, DPH
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