



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
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DATE: November 9, 2020

VIA EMAIL: alevine@barrettsingal.com

Andrew Levine, Esq.
Barrett & Singal
One Beacon Street, Suite 1320
Boston, MA 02108

RE: Mass General Brigham Incorporated – Notice of Transfer of Site/Change in Designated Location
Application # MGB-20101916-TS

Dear Mr. Levine:

We are in receipt of the above-referenced Notice and its accompanying letter, dated October 20, 2020, in which Mass General Brigham Incorporated provided written notice to the Department of Public Health (the Department) in accordance with 105 CMR 100.745 (the Regulation) for a proposed transfer of site by the McLean Hospital Corporation. The proposed transaction is for the transfer of four licensed, out-of-service psychiatric beds from McLean Hospital main campus in Belmont to its licensed satellite site, McLean Southeast, in Middleborough.

Mass General Brigham Incorporated has complied with the requirements of Notice and has provided information sufficient to allow the Department to make a finding that the proposed transaction will neither result in a Substantial Capital Expenditure or Substantial Change in Service, and thus will not first require a Notice of Determination of Need (DoN).

Application Summary

Background, Reason for Request and Other Required Elements of Notice:

The proposed transfer of site involves two of McLean Hospital's sites: (1) Hospital, main campus located in Belmont, MA, and (2) McLean Southeast (MSE) located in Middleborough, MA.

McLean Hospital is currently licensed by the Department to operate a total of 324 inpatient psychiatric beds across two sites: 294 at the main campus and 30 at the satellite site, MSE.

MSE provides acute psychiatric treatment for patients 16 years and older who cannot safely function at a less-restrictive level of care. There is an unmet demand for inpatient psychiatric treatment in

MSE's geographic region (Southeast, MA). Further, overall bed availability has been limited due to COVID-19 social distancing policies.

Location and Location Change: The Applicant seeks to relocate and reactivate four out-of-service adult psychiatric beds from McLean Hospital – main campus in Belmont to MSE satellite site in Middleborough. There is no associated gross square feet (GSF) for the beds in the current site because they are maintained on the license as out-of-service. The GSF of the psychiatric service at the proposed site is approximately 14,555 square feet, sufficient space to accommodate the four additional beds with minimal renovation. MSE will efficiently use their space to accommodate the four beds consisting of two single rooms and one double room while maintaining COVID-19 safety protocols for patients.

Primary Service Area (PSA): The four psychiatric beds are out-of-service and licensed by the Department and thus, there is not currently a PSA associated with these beds. After the transfer of site, the PSA will reflect that of the existing MSE patient panel.^{1,2}

The transfer of site will allow for the four out-of-service beds to become operational, which will increase access to inpatient psychiatric care particularly for patients residing in MSE's PSA, and meet the demand in the Southeast, MA region. The DoN Program reviewed the Massachusetts Emergency Department Boarding data to assess the need for psychiatric care in the region. The number of patients in the Southeast, MA region with a behavioral health diagnosis who wait 12 or more hours before being admitted or discharged, are comparatively higher than in other regions of the state.³ Additionally, boarding rates have increased during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴ Improved and more timely access to psychiatric beds will contribute to decreased community ED boarding times and ensure patients receive the appropriate psychiatric health care.⁵

Pricing: No changes will occur regarding the pricing of psychiatric services; all pricing will remain consistent with current charges at MSE. The transfer of psychiatric beds will not impact total medical expenses (TME) as they will be used to meet current demand.

The total value of the Proposed Project is \$135,000⁶ representing planning and construction costs to renovate the existing space at MSE to accommodate the four additional psychiatric beds.

Sufficient Interest in the Proposed Site: The Applicant states that MSE is appropriately zoned to provide inpatient services, and the McLean Hospital Corporation owns the licensed facility.

¹ Plymouth, Boston, Attleboro, Middleborough, North Attleboro, Vineyard Haven, Norton, Mansfield, Duxbury, and Weymouth (derived from the top 10 cities/towns). Applicant provided a full list of the cities/towns within McLean Southeast's PSA representing 75% of this site's patient panel.

² In FY19, of the 1,022 patients, MSE served approximately: 54% male and 46% female; 95.7% ages 17-64; 83.6% White, 8.1% All Other, 4.6% Black or African-American, 2.7% Asian, and 1.0% American Indian or Alaska Native /Hispanic or Latino / Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander; 4.5% Hispanic

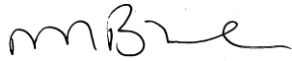
³ State regions includes Western MA, Central MA, Northeastern MA, Metro Boston, and Southeast MA including islands

⁴ ~48% of total patients waiting 12 or more hours before being admitted or discharged in January 2020 compared to ~56% of total patients waiting 12 or more hours before being admitted or discharged in September 2020

⁵ Nordstrom, K., Berlin, J. S., Nash, S. S., Shah, S. B., Schmelzer, N. A., & Worley, L. L. (2019). Boarding of mentally ill patients in emergency departments: American Psychiatric Association resource document. *Western Journal of Emergency Medicine*, 20(5), 690.

⁶ Anticipated Capital Expenditure: Construction Contract (120,000), Architectural Cost and Engineering Cost (\$14,000), Pre-filing Planning and Development Costs (\$1,000).

Findings: The Department finds that Mass General Brigham Incorporated has provided the Department with the information required in 105 CMR 100.745(D) listed above. Based upon review of the Notice and supporting materials, the Department finds that this transaction does not require a DoN, either as a Substantial Capital Expenditure or Substantial Change in Service, pursuant to 105 CMR 100.715 and Mass General Brigham Incorporated may move forward with the proposed changes in designated location.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'mBharel', written in a cursive style.

Monica Bharel, MD, MPH
Commissioner

cc: E. Kelley
L. Szent-Gyorgyi
R. Rodman
S. Lohnes
D. Gent