March 29, 2021

**VIA E-MAIL AND OVERNIGHT DELIVERY**

Walter Mackie, J.D.

Licensure Unit Coordinator

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Division of Health Care Facility Licensure and Certification

67 Forest Street

Marlborough, MA 01752

Re: Notice of Intent to Close: Agawam Healthcare

Dear Mr. Mackie:

Please accept this Notice of Intent to Close Agawam Healthcare (“Agawam” or the “Facility”) located at 1200 Suffield Street, Agawam, MA 01001, effective on or about July 27, 2021 following completion of the regulatory process for voluntary closure of a long-term care facility required by the Department of Public Health. Attached please find our draft Closure and Relocation Plan (the “Closure Plan”).

On December 1, 2017, 1200 Suffield Street Operator, LLC (d/b/a Agawam Healthcare), a wholly-owned affiliate of Next Step Healthcare LLC (“Next Step”) began leasing Agawam and operating the Facility. The expiration date of this lease was February 28, 2021. Ultimately the Facility’s landlord was not willing to renew the lease or sell the Facility and demanded that Next Step close the Facility. The landlord has agreed to extend the lease to provide sufficient time to complete the closure process. The Facility’s representatives whom residents, family members, staff or other interested parties may contact with questions they may have regarding the proposed closure are:

Elisabeth Woolf, Facility Administrator at Agawam Healthcare, (413)-789-2200 or by e-mail at info@nextstephc.com.

 We request that the Department of Public Health coordinate with Agawam for the scheduling of a public hearing on the proposed closure of the skilled nursing facility, which will be held at least 90 days prior to the proposed closure date (as soon as practicable after April 28, 2021). At least 14 days prior to the public hearing, Agawam will provide (i) a copy of the draft closure plan and (ii) written notice regarding the date, time, and place of the hearing to each person who is receiving this Notice of Intent to Close. The draft closure plan and notice of the hearing will each be in a format approved by the Department of Public Health and will be available in the Facility. A copy of the draft Closure Plan will be made available to each of the individuals who are required to receive notice. Interested parties may file comments on the proposed closure and the draft closure plan with the Department of Public Health up until the date of the public hearing.

 We will be working with residents and their families, with our employees and with the state agencies, including the Department of Public Health, throughout this process to assure the orderly transition of care for our residents.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

William H. Stephan

Chief Financial Officer, Agawam Healthcare