September **7**, 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: Heathwood Healthcare

Dear Mr. Mackie:

Please accept this Notice of Intent to Close Heathwood Healthcare (“Heathwood” or the “Facility”) located at 188 Florence Street, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts 02467, effective on or about January 5, 2022 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 Proposed Closure and Relocation Plan (the “Closure Plan”).

On September 1, 2017, 188 Florence Street Operator, LLC (d/b/a Heathwood Healthcare), a wholly-owned affiliate of Next Step Healthcare LLC (“Next Step”) began leasing Heathwood and operating the Facility. Recently, after discussions with the Facility’s landlord regarding the Facility’s low occupancy and difficult labor market driven by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting poor financial performance, the decision was made to close the Facility. 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:

Andrew Almeida, Vice President of Operations - Next Step Healthcare,

(617)-332-4730 or by e-mail at [info@nextstephc.com](mailto:info@nextstephc.com)

We will work with the Department of Public Health to schedule a public hearing on the proposed closure of the Facility at least 90 days prior to the proposed closure date of January 5, 2022. A copy of the public hearing notice will be posted at the Facility and will be made available by the Facility’s Administrator upon request. At least 14 days prior to the public hearing, Heathwood will provide a written notice regarding the date, time, and place of the hearing to each person who is receiving this Notice of Intent to Close. Interested parties may file comments on the proposed closure and the 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, Heathwood Healthcare

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