



November 6, 2023

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Determination of Need Program
MA Department of Public Health
250 Washington St.
Boston, MA 02108

Re: The Children's Medical Center Corporation/Franciscan Hospital – Hospital/Clinic
Substantial Capital Expenditure

Dear Determination of Need Program,

As a community organization in the Allston/Brighton area, I am writing to support the Children's Medical Center Corporation/Franciscan Children's Determination of Need application to revitalize its facility in Brighton. Franciscan Children's is a critical institution to the health care and educational landscape, serving children with complex medical, mental health, and educational needs in the surrounding community, the state, and the region.

Through the proposed project, Franciscan Children's will construct a state-of-the-art, family friendly facility to meet both the existing and growing needs of children who require behavioral health and rehabilitative care. In addition, Franciscan Children's will expand services to children who require dental surgery through expansion of its existing operating room capacity.

The Allston Brighton Community Development Corporation (ABCDC) owns and operates 520 apartments within the Allston Brighton Neighborhoods targeted to low-income households. Those apartments are home to over 1,200 people who are provided access to services to assist them in maintaining their tenancies and improving their quality of life. In providing these services ABCDC staff fully understands the intense need for the type of service resources that have traditionally been provided by Franciscan Children's and we are grateful and excited to hear of the plans to expand and enhance their services and facilities.

Franciscan Children's is a valued partner in the neighborhood. Their services are important to the surrounding community of Allston/Brighton. I am excited by the project's focus on environmental sustainability and that the proposed investment will help Franciscan Children's increase its impact and reach even more families and more patients, clearly demonstrating the hospital's commitment to the health and well-being of children throughout Massachusetts.

This project will ensure that patients and families have access to a full range of high quality, integrated pediatric care services. I am confident Franciscan Children's investment in children,

Allston Brighton CDC
18R Shepard Street #100
Brighton, MA 02135
617-787-3874



Kwasi Agbleke
Lauren Erlingheuser
Michael Helmsmortel
Tahir Hussain
Enoh Johnson
Diane Kline
Brighton Lew
Patricia Nuñez-Salas
Andrew Schwartz
Wanda Valez-Justino
Charlie Vasiliades

John Woods
Executive Director



families and communities will have a long-lasting impact and benefit future generations of children for many years.

Thank you for accepting this letter of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Woods', is written over a large, stylized blue circular flourish.

John Woods, Executive Director
Allston Brighton Community Development Corporation

Allston Brighton CDC
18R Shepard Street #100
Brighton, MA 02135
617-787-3874



November 7, 2023

Determination of Need Program
MA Department of Public Health
250 Washington St.
Boston, MA 02108

Re: The Children's Medical Center Corporation/Franciscan Hospital – Hospital/Clinic
Substantial Capital Expenditure

Dear Determination of Need Program,

I am writing to convey Health Law Advocates' (HLA) support for the Children's Medical Center/Franciscan Children's Determination of Need application to revitalize its facility in Brighton. Franciscan Children's is a critical institution in our region's health care and educational landscape. It serves a population of children with complex medical, mental health, and educational needs from all parts of Boston, our state, and New England.

In the proposed project, Franciscan Children's will construct a state-of-the-art, family-friendly facility that meets both the existing and growing needs of children who require behavioral health and rehabilitative care. In addition, Franciscan Children's will expand critically needed services to children who require dental surgery through expansion of its existing operating room capacity.

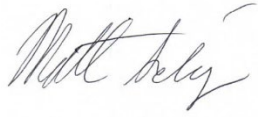
HLA's Mental Health Advocacy Program for Kids annually serves hundreds of families with children with interrelated mental health and education needs. Our work allows us to see that many of these children do not receive the services they need and are impacted very negatively as a result. The proposed investment will help to alleviate the barriers that so many children and families are facing.

Your approval will allow Franciscan Children's to increase its impact and reach even more families to advance the hospital's commitment to the health and well-being of children throughout Massachusetts. This project will ensure that more patients and families have access to a full range of high quality, integrated pediatric care services.

I believe Franciscan Children's investment in children, families and communities will have a long-lasting impact and benefit children for many years.

Thank you for considering this letter of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Matt Selig". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Matt Selig
Executive Director

Begin typing here...



FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Determination of Need Program
MA Department of Public Health
250 Washington St.
Boston, MA 02108

November 1, 2023

Re: The Children's Medical Center Corporation/Franciscan Hospital – Hospital/Clinic Substantial Capital Expenditure

Dear Determination of Need Program,

I am writing to support the Children's Medical Center/Franciscan Children's Determination of Need application to revitalize its facility in Brighton. Franciscan Children's is a critical institution to the health care and educational landscape, serving children with complex medical, mental health, and educational needs from neighborhoods across Boston, the state, and the New England region.

Through the proposed project, Franciscan Children's will construct a state-of-the-art, family friendly facility to meet both the existing and growing needs of children who require behavioral health and rehabilitative care. In addition, Franciscan Children's will expand services to children who require dental surgery through expansion of its existing operating room capacity.

The Federation for Children with Special Needs has assisted hundreds of thousands of families and youth with special health care needs in MA for the past 50 years. Our organization was founded on access to public education and access to health care. 99% of our staff are professionals with lived experience as caregivers of children with special health care needs. Boston Children's specialized departments like the Down syndrome clinic, pediatric cardiology, palliative care, child life services, dentistry, etc. have been critical for our children and families in need. But traveling to the hospital, paying for, and negotiating parking, locating lodging, etc. in the Longwood medical area have often been barriers for our families. Recently, one of our families attended the dental clinic now housed in Brookline. The child had significant anxiety prior to the appointment. The staff's understanding of how to support neurodivergent children impacted both the child and mother allowing them to trust and relax with the provider(s) while getting the child's much needed preventative dental care addressed. You may recall, a recent article in the Boston Globe featured the lack of dental care available to many in the disability community. Expanding dental services to the Franciscan hospital campus will help our families access the critical care they need in an environment that is calmer and more accessible.

Additionally, the need for behavioral health support and services has been a long-standing issue for our families. The increased need for behavioral health services post-pandemic has skyrocketed!

The Schrafft Center *529 Main St. Suite 1M3 * Boston, Massachusetts 02129 * O (617) 236-7210 * Fax (617) 241-0330

* www.fcsn.org * In-state toll free (800) 331-0688 * Western Massachusetts (413) 323-0681



FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Having one location where these supports and services are offered will be an invaluable resource for our children and families; one that we are certain will have positive outcomes in the creation of a fulfilling and meaningful life as an adult.

The proposed investment will help Franciscan Children's increase its impact and reach even more families and more patients, clearly demonstrating the hospital's commitment to the health and well-being of every child throughout Massachusetts. This project will ensure that patients and families have access to a full range of high quality, integrated pediatric care services.

I am confident Franciscan Children's investment in children, families and communities will have a long-lasting impact and benefit future generations of children for many years. And the Federation for Children with Special Needs is certain Boston Childrens Hospital's commitment to children and youth with special health care needs through their expansion to the Franciscan campus will allow for the continuation of the excellent and incomparable health care our children both need and deserve.

Thank you for accepting this letter of support.

Sincerely,

Pam Nourse

Pam Nourse

Executive Director

pnourse@fcsn.org



Boston Children's
Pediatric Physicians' Organization

112 Worcester St., Suite 300
Wellesley Hills, MA 02481
Phone: 617-919-4074

Determination of Need Program
MA Department of Public Health
250 Washington St.
Boston, MA 02108

November 7, 2023

Re: The Children's Medical Center Corporation/Franciscan Hospital – Hospital/Clinic
Substantial Capital Expenditure

Dear Determination of Need Program,

I am writing to support the Children's Medical Center/Franciscan Children's Determination of Need application to revitalize its facility in Brighton. Franciscan Children's is a critical institution to the health care and educational landscape, serving children with complex medical, mental health, and educational needs from neighborhoods across Boston, the state, and the New England region. Through the proposed project, Franciscan Children's will construct a state-of-the-art, family friendly facility to meet both the existing and growing needs of children who require behavioral health and rehabilitative care.

As the Director a program at the Pediatric Physicians' Organization at Children's (PPOC) that is integrating mental health clinicians in pediatric primary care offices, I have a front row seat daily to the major problems created by the inability of the mental health care system to meet the needs of children and families across the Commonwealth. This need is especially great for children in need of psychiatric hospitalization and other high-acuity services. There is a tremendous need to increase the number of inpatient beds and access to community-based intensive outpatient programs. Currently, families may wait weeks for inpatient admission (or endure lengthy periods of time boarding in emergency departments). While they wait the cost of suffering increases, children's symptoms often worsen, and families are immeasurably strained trying to keep their children (and at times themselves) safe. The need for greater access to high-acuity services is especially dire for families caring for children with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental concerns.

The dearth of services for families post-hospitalization is also highly-problematic. Rather than being able to place children and adolescents in appropriate aftercare, families are often direct to their pediatrician for follow-up care. This is the same pediatrician that was unable to provide the appropriate level of care to keep the child or teen out of the hospital



Boston Children's
Pediatric Physicians' Organization

112 Worcester St., Suite 300
Wellesley Hills, MA 02481
Phone: 617-919-4074

to begin with, and is no more capable of providing appropriate care following hospitalization without additional intensive community-based supports.

The proposed investment will help Franciscan Children's increase its impact and reach even more families and more patients, clearly demonstrating the hospital's commitment to the health and well-being of children throughout Massachusetts. This project will ensure that patients and families have access to a full range of high quality, integrated pediatric care services. I am confident Franciscan Children's investment in children, families and communities will have a long-lasting impact and benefit future generations of children for many years.

Thank you for accepting this letter of support in favor of Children's Medical Center/Franciscan Children's plan to improve the health outcomes and quality of life for children, adolescents, and families across the Commonwealth with behavioral health needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jonas Bromberg, Psy.D.".

Jonas Bromberg, Psy.D.
Program Director, Behavioral Health Integration, Pediatric Physicians' Organization
Attending Psychologist, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Boston Children's Hospital
Instructor in Psychology, Harvard Medical School
112 Worcester St., Suite 300
Wellesley Hills, MA 02481
jonas.bromberg@childrens.harvard.edu

Determination of Need Program
MA Department of Public Health
250 Washington St.
Boston, MA 02108

November 7, 2023

Re: The Children's Medical Center Corporation/Franciscan Hospital – Hospital/Clinic Substantial Capital Expenditure

Dear Determination of Need Program,

We, the members of Franciscan Children's Patient Family Advisory Council (PFAC), are writing to express our unwavering support for the Children's Medical Center/Franciscan Children's Determination of Need application to revitalize its facility in Brighton.

As parents/caregivers of children who have been treated and cared for by the people and programs at Franciscan Children's, we know firsthand how critical this institution is to the health care and educational landscape. We know how essential Franciscan Children's is to families of children with behavioral health challenges, complex medical conditions, and/or special education needs.

It is our understanding that, through the proposed project, Franciscan Children's will construct a state-of-the-art, family friendly facility that will meet both the existing and growing needs of children who require behavioral health and rehabilitative care. In addition, Franciscan Children's will expand services to children who require dental surgery through the expansion of its existing operating room capacity.

We firmly support these changes to the Franciscan campus. While the care our children received there has been exceptional, the buildings date back to 1949 and continue to age. This new building would provide single patient rooms, allowing for a more comfortable experience for every child and family. The building will also include state-of-the-art family friendly spaces, including updated entrances, lobbies, and cafeteria spaces which will significantly improve the patient/family environment. The plan also includes beautiful outdoor spaces which can provide a much-needed respite for families during what is often a very stressful time.

What we are most excited about is that, through this project, Franciscan Children's will be able to expand its reach and provide more services to kids and families in need. Anyone whose child has received services at Franciscan Children's knows it is a special place. The care that the staff provide is truly exceptional. They take the time to get to know each child and family, listen to concerns and advocate for each individual.

Franciscan Children's has enabled us to safely take our children home. We need more of what they do and this proposed investment will enable them to help even more children and families.

Thank you for your time and accepting our letter of support.

Sincerely,

Sean Ryan
Bethany Scalise
Lori Walsh
Tighe Clements
Stephanie DeGenaro
Amanda Voysey

Franciscan Children's Patient and Family Advisory Council Members



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston, 02133-1054

Kevin G. Honan
192 FANEUIL STREET
BRIGHTON, MA 02135

Determination of Need Program
MA Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

November 6, 2023

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to strongly support the Children's Medical Center/Franciscan Children's Determination of Need application to revitalize its facility in Brighton. Franciscan Children's is a vital resource in my district, to the City of Boston and to the state. For more than seventy years, Franciscan Children's mission has been to improve the lives of children and families by providing critical pediatric mental health, medical rehabilitative and special education services.

Through the proposed project, Franciscan Children's will construct a state-of-the-art, family friendly facility on its Brighton campus. This new building will allow for more inpatient beds for both the mental health and medical rehabilitation programs, enabling more children to receive the help they need at a time when demand for these services is increasing.

Under this plan, Franciscan's Children's will also increase services to children who require dental surgery with the expansion of its existing operating room capacity. For children with complex medical and behavioral health needs that make it difficult for them to receive traditional dental services, this expansion of the Franciscan dental surgery program will greatly increase access for this vulnerable population.

In the wake of the pandemic, Franciscan's services are needed now more than ever. We have seen a sharp increase in mental health diagnoses among adolescents, and Franciscan Children's continues to be our area's most valuable resource to address this mental health crisis. The expansion and modernization of their campus will be a welcome addition to our neighborhood and the entire Commonwealth.

This project demonstrates Franciscan's commitment to the health and well-being of children, ensuring their patients have access to a wide range of high-quality pediatric care services. It is my hope you give every consideration when reviewing their proposal. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Kevin G. Honan'.

KEVIN G. HONAN