



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,

On behalf of bryt, a program of The Brookline Center for Community Mental Health, 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.

These expanded behavioral health services for children are critical in light of the ongoing emergency department boarding crisis in our state, which we (bryt) experience constantly in our work to support schools in planning, implementing, and continuously improving intensive interventions for students who have experienced a mental health disruption, and these students' families. While the bryt intervention in schools supports students who are returning from hospitalization and/or other extended mental health-related absences, we are increasingly experiencing the need to coach school teams with regard to supporting students who need a higher level of care but are unable to access this care due to the unavailability of beds (or slots in other intensive mental health programs). While we recognize that the expanded facility at Franciscan Children's will not eliminate this challenge in our state, it will be an important step forward in addressing this gap.

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, and support this investment without reservation.

Thank you for accepting this letter of support. I can be easily reached with any questions or requests for additional information

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Hyry-Dermith".

Paul Hyry-Dermith, Ed.D

Director of bryt

Brookline Center for Community Mental Health

Paul_hyry-dermith@brooklinecenter.org

413-219-8587

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

November 8, 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.

For well over a decade, there has been crisis in children's behavioral health across the country. This crisis was significantly exacerbated by COVID-19, leading to currently unprecedented levels of need for intensive treatments and services. At the Insurance Resource Center, some of the most challenging cases we see are families of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities and/or autism (IDD/ASD), who, due to their profile, are unable to access appropriate care for their medical and behavioral health needs. Many of these children end up "boarding" in Emergency Departments for extended periods of time due to lack of facilities that can provide the specialized care that they require.

We also witness families "stuck" in Emergency Departments, forced to place their children in facilities that are inappropriate, and/or sometimes unsafe. This often results in a cycle of continuing crises for families, with residual trauma for parents, siblings, and others. In addition, it creates astronomical medical and crisis costs for sub-optimal care just to keep a person safe. The proposed project would increase the number of inpatient beds, create additional beds for IDD/ASD patients, and renovate the Community-Based Acute Treatment (CBAT) unit. These additional facilities would provide additional capacity that is desperately needed as well as create models of care that could be replicated throughout the State and serve as a national model.

The proposed investment will help Franciscan Children's increase its impact and reach even more families and more patients. It demonstrates the hospital's commitment to the health and well-being of children throughout Massachusetts. I am personally and professionally grateful for this, and confident that their 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.

Sincerely,



Amy K. Weinstock
Director
amy.weinstock@umassmed.edu

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

8 November 2023

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

Dear Determination of Need Program,

As a physical therapist by training and Senior Director of Rehabilitative Therapies at Franciscan Children's, I am writing to express my enthusiasm for the Children's Medical Center/Franciscan Children's Determination of Need application to revitalize its facility in Brighton.

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. With the population of medically complex children growing by 5% annually according to the Children's Hospital Association, the need for pediatric rehabilitative therapies is increasing rapidly. The acuity of Franciscan's patients has steadily risen over the last several years. The Franciscan campus needs a state-of-the-art building that aligns with the complexity of the children that we serve.

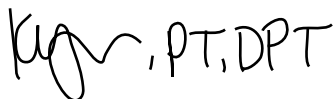
I have worked in various healthcare organizations throughout the country and I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to return to Boston with my role at Franciscan Children's. Through my experience across the nation and most recently in working with clinicians, patients, and families in our rehabilitative therapies department, I know first-hand how much of a difference a new building will make. Private rooms and increased child/family spaces will improve patient/family satisfaction and the environment of care. Having buildings designed with improved patient flow, accessibility, and updated technology in mind will improve workflows, collaboration, and the experience for our staff. Larger treatment areas will allow us to utilize the state-of-the-art equipment that families otherwise seek in rehabilitation programs outside of New England.

We are on the forefront of transforming pediatric behavioral health care and pediatric post-acute care. The proposed investment will help Franciscan Children's increase its impact and reach even more children and families through additional inpatient beds and larger outpatient capacity for both programs, 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, including essential rehabilitation 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kyra, PT, DPT'.

Kyra Mihalick, PT, DPT

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

November 8, 2023

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

Dear Determination of Need Program,

From my experience as a nurse on Franciscan's post-acute care medical units, 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.

From my firsthand experience at Franciscan Children's, I know that new medical units will make a large difference in the lives of our patients and families. Private rooms and enhanced patient/family spaces will make our environment of care more comfortable for families and improve the staff experience. Franciscan Children's is the only post-acute care facility in the Northeast region serving medically complex children and children needing rehabilitative services. An increase in patient beds and private rooms will allow us to care for more patients needing complex, interdisciplinary care. Our current waitlist exceeds the capacity of the existing building, and there are so many children who could benefit from our care. I have had the pleasure of working for six years at Franciscan Children's as a staff nurse at both the bedside and in a leadership position as a charge nurse on the inpatient medical units. Every patient who is cared for at Franciscan Children's requires individualized care, in addition to caregiver education. I have discharged several medically complex patients to the home setting following extended length admissions and lengthy caregiver education, and the overwhelming feeling of joy and accomplishment never gets old. Because of the specialized care we provide here at Franciscan Children's, every patient has a chance to live their life to their fullest potential. My love for Franciscan Children's is deep, and I am compassionate about continuing the hospitals' mission and values.

The proposed investment will help Franciscan Children's increase its impact and reach even more families and more patients, including patients requiring Franciscan's pediatric post-acute care services, 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.

Sincerely,

Grace M. Alden

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

November 8, 2023

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

Dear Determination of Need Program,

As a neighboring community institution of Franciscan Children's in Brighton, I am writing to enthusiastically 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 local 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 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.

As a lifelong resident and homeowner in Brighton, MA, I received my pediatric health care at the Kennedy Hospital until I was above the legal age limit. I have always appreciated and been extremely grateful for having such an important rehabilitative and post-acute care service, especially for medically complex children in the Allston/Brighton neighborhood, to serve the Commonwealth. In my professional career servicing Boston Public School Children for over 25 years, I am thrilled that FCH has a world-class healthcare partner in Boston Children's Hospital to expand resources, improve quality healthcare for children, and invest significantly in infrastructure and technology that will benefit our local families.

Franciscan Children's provides greatly needed services to children and families in the local community. I have worked with them and know them to be an important and collaborative community partner. I am excited that their new building will focus on environmental sustainability, accessibility, and green space, which is important to the surrounding community.

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. 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.

Sincerely,

Daniel M. Cuddy

Director of Community and Government Relations



From: [Meghan](#)
To: [DPH-DL - DoN Program](#)
Subject: Support for the Children's Medical Center Corporation/ Franciscan Children's Determination of Need application
Date: Thursday, November 9, 2023 4:23:39 AM

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Determination of Need Program

MA Department of Public Health

250 Washington St.

Boston, MA 02108

November 9, 2023

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

Dear Determination of Need Program,

As Director of Surgical Services at Franciscan Children's, 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.

I have been working at Franciscan for many years and can attest firsthand to the critical dental surgery services provided. Franciscan's dental surgery program treats those with extensive dental needs, developmental disabilities, medical complex conditions, and situational anxiety with compassion and care. Through the proposed project, in addition to expanding post-acute care and medical services, Franciscan Children's will expand services to children who require dental surgery through expansion of its existing operating room capacity.

Franciscan is a market leader in pediatric dental surgery, providing nearly 70% of dental surgeries for these children in Massachusetts. Franciscan has over 100 credentialed dentists from across the state who perform surgeries in our operating rooms. As the number of medically complex children continues to rise, Franciscan has seen the need for our operating rooms only continue to grow. The need to expand our operating room capacity through this investment is paramount so we can continue to meet the rising needs of children who require our services from across Massachusetts.

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, including much needed dental-surgery for children with complex medical and mental health conditions.

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.

Sincerely,

Meghan McDonough

mmcdonough@franciscanchildrens.org



Boston Children's Hospital

Where the world comes for answers



**HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
TEACHING HOSPITAL**

Stacy Drury, MD, PhD

Psychiatrist-in-Chief

Leon Eisenberg Chair in Psychiatry

Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

Boston Children's Hospital

2 Brookline Place

Brookline, MA 02445

Determination of Need Program

MA Department of Public Health

250 Washington St.

Boston, MA 02108

November 8, 2023

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

Dear Determination of Need Program,

I am writing to document my strong 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, community facing, facility to meet both the existing and growing needs of children who require behavioral health and rehabilitative care, locating the entire continuum of care in one location. In addition, Franciscan Children's will enhance services to children who require dental surgery through expansion of its existing operating room capacity. We envision this campus as a state-of-the-art training environment for the existing workforce providing services to children with mental and behavioral health needs and the next generation of providers.

As the new Psychiatrist in Chief at Boston Children's Hospital, it is clear that the current mental health care crisis needs both a short and a long-term solution. Often behavioral and mental health treatment centers are located in places other specialties have vacated for more updated facilities, leaving child mental and behavioral health care as an afterthought, perpetuating the persistent stigmatization around child mental illness. In addition, despite significant investment from the state, Boston Children's Hospital, Franciscan Children's, and our other academic partners substantial gaps in service, inadequate connection between different providers and levels of care, and rates of boarding patients continue to be high in Massachusetts. More than 1/3 of youth in Massachusetts struggle with significant symptoms of mental and behavioral illness and rates of suicidal ideation, suicide attempts, and suicide continue to increase. The planned campus at Franciscan Children's will signal to the community, state, and country our commitment to ensuring all children thrive and our recognition that without child mental health there is no physical health. The campus will include areas for training, education, and outreach programs and will be designed as a place of healing, recovery, and healthy social-emotional growth. In addition to being home to state of the art clinical programs, the proposed plans include creating space for training of mental health providers at all levels and will integrate the strengths of Boston Children's research and innovation portfolio, laying the groundwork for transformative research in early identification, prevention, treatment and, some day, cure.

Bringing together Franciscan Children's and Boston Children's on this new campus will synergistically enhance both systems school based mental health services. Together these programs currently serve twenty-three different schools, and within this new campus, we will offer learning collaboratives for school based clinicians, as well as educational and outreach activities for teachers, principals, and parents. I envision significant strengthening of our partnerships with community programs including the Italian Home, Youth Villages, Centro Presente, and many others.



Boston Children's Hospital

Where the world comes for answers



HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
TEACHING HOSPITAL

Stacy Drury, MD, PhD

Psychiatrist-in-Chief
Leon Eisenberg Chair in Psychiatry
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Boston Children's Hospital
2 Brookline Place
Brookline, MA 02445

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. Finally, this project will address a substantial gap in the care continuum for children with autism and neurodevelopmental disorders through the creation of a new inpatient, partial day program and intensive outpatient program for this vulnerable population. An example of the importance of this proposed campus transformation for workforce recruitment, Boston Children's Hospital recently hired Dr. Matthew Siegel to be the Chief of Clinical Enterprises at Boston Children's and the Chief Behavioral Health Officer at Franciscan Children's. Dr. Siegel is the founder and principal investigator of the Autism and Developmental Disorders Inpatient Research Collaborative and the founder of the first learning health network of inpatient units serving people with developmental disabilities and his recruitment is the first of many thought leaders we expect to join us in this important project.

I am confident Franciscan Children's investment in children, families, and communities will have a long-lasting impact and benefit future generations of children. This is an unprecedented opportunity to say to children, families, communities and the nation that we are committed to ensuring every child, from every background, culture, race, has the tools and skills they need to thrive in an ever changing and challenging world.

Thank you for accepting this letter of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacy Drury".

Stacy Drury, MD, PhD
2 Brookline Place
Brookline MA 02445
stacy.drury@childrens.harvard.edu