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(Via Email ([dph.don@state.ma.us](mailto:dph.don@state.ma.us)))

Determination of Need Program  
Department of Public Health  
250 Washington Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

April 4, 2019

Re. Regis College Notification of Change of Designated Location of Regis College  
Dental Center

To whom it may concern:

Regis College is providing written notification with regard to a proposed transfer of site for the Regis College Dental Center. This notification is submitted in accordance with 105 CMR 100.745, which sets the process for obtaining approval for transfer of site. This letter provides a description of the project and the information required under Question 8 of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Determination of Need application.

#### Project Description

In the summer of 2018, the Dental Hygiene Program at Mount Ida College was transferred to Regis College. As part of this agreement, Regis leased the dental hygiene facility located in Newton, MA from the University of Massachusetts (the new owners of the Mount Ida campus). The lease will expire on August 1, 2020. Consequently, Regis College plans to move the dental hygiene facility (the “Regis Dental Center” or “Dental Center”) to a new location in Waltham, MA.

The Regis Dental Center is an educational facility that is used to train students in the undergraduate dental hygiene program at Regis College. The proposed new facility will accommodate the same number operatories as the current facility (twenty) and includes a Dental Materials lab that will provide both a laboratory space as well as serve as a 36-seat classroom for various classes that utilize both a classroom and a clinical environment such as pre-clinic and dental materials lab.

The plan for the new proposed facility is to continue to provide dental hygiene treatment to the current patient base in Newton (as the proposed new clinic is only nine miles away). Many

patients have expressed an interest in continuing care with the students and the Regis Dental Center. The Regis Dental Center also plans to provide low-cost dental hygiene treatment to people in the Waltham community.

### Responses to Question 8

1. The Primary Service Area will change from Newton, MA to Waltham, MA. By moving the Dental Center to Waltham, Regis is bringing the facility closer to its main campus in Weston, MA. The move will allow the facility to serve the more diverse patient population that is found in Waltham. The Dental Center and educational facility currently serve people in the community from 1 year of age to people well into their 90s. The current Dental Center patient base is approximately 2,200 patients. Approximately 20 percent of the patients have Mass Health and the majority of the remaining patients are self-pay. Since this is an educational facility, where dental hygiene students learn to work on patients, under the direct supervision of a licensed dental hygienist and dentist, the time commitment is substantial, therefore the fees are relatively low compared to private practices. Patients who are currently served by the Regis Dental Center will be invited to receive services at the Waltham location.

By moving the Dental Center to Waltham, there will be increased access to public transportation. An examination of the demographics of Newton and Waltham suggests that by moving the Dental Center to Waltham, it will be able to serve a more diverse patient population. This is in keeping with the mission of Regis College.

2. Patient Access – Since this the Dental Center is an educational facility, clinic hours are scheduled around classes. The clinic hours will remain unchanged as the Dental Center moves to Waltham. Patients are booked in four-hour blocks and there are two clinic sessions per day (8am-noon and 1:30-5:30pm). Some appointments may even last the full day (an 8-hour session) or occur over multiple days for in-depth procedures such as deep scalings as this is an educational facility. In the fall, appointments are available on Mondays and Wednesdays and in the spring, appointments are available on Mondays through Thursdays. As this is an educational facility, the Dental Center is open during the Regis College academic calendar (September through April). The proposed site will have improved access to public transportation. From an operational standpoint, the Regis College Dental Center will provide the same level of access to care. There will be no changes in the scope of services offered.
3. Impact on Price – There will be no impact on price as a result of the transfer of site.
4. Total Medical Expenditure – No impact on total medical expenditure is anticipated as a result of the transfer of site.
5. Provider costs – No impact on provider costs are anticipated as a result of the transfer of site.

6. Description - The current dental hygiene facility is located on the UMass campus in Newton, MA (formerly the Mount Ida campus). The Dental Center is used as an educational space for students in the undergraduate dental hygiene program. It is a dental hygiene clinic and educational facility that serves people in the community from 1 year of age to people well into their 90s. The Dental Center provides dental hygiene services including blood pressure screenings, oral cancer screenings, dental exams, radiographs, cleanings, and deep scalings at greatly reduced fees compared to private practice. The vast majority of the patients who seek dental hygiene treatment in the Dental Center would not get treatment elsewhere due to the high prices of these services in private practice. The lease between Regis College and UMass will end in August of 2020 and is not renewable.

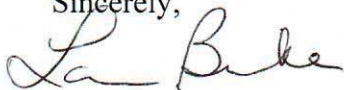
The proposed facility will be located in a new space that is being custom retrofitted by Regis College. The space will contain twenty dental chairs, a dental materials laboratory for training students, consultation space, staff and faculty areas, sterilization areas, student lounges, and a panoramic dental x-ray room. By having the Dental Center closer to the main Regis campus, it will allow students, faculty and staff at Regis to have better access to the Dental Center. It will also provide dental hygiene services to a more diverse patient population.

#### Conclusion

The plan for the new proposed clinic location is to continue to provide dental hygiene treatment to our current patient base in Newton (as the proposed new location is only nine miles away) and a new population of patients in Waltham. The Dental Center will continue to provide low-cost dental hygiene treatment to people in the community. The improved access to public transportation, should improve the accessibility of the Dental Center to the community.

If you require any additional information or have any questions about this submission, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Laura Burke