

Morton Hospital

A STEWARD FAMILY HOSPITAL

March 1, 2023



Steward

Via Email

Stephen Davis, Director
Division of Health Care Facility Licensure and Certification
Department of Public Health
67 Forest Street
Marlborough, MA 01752

Re: Steward Health Care System LLC – Morton Hospital – Relocation of Morton Hospital’s Comprehensive Addiction Program (MORCAP)

Dear Mr. Davis:

This letter is submitted on behalf of Steward Health Care System LLC (“Steward”), which owns and operates Morton Hospital, located at 88 Washington Street, Taunton, MA 02780 (the “Hospital”). I am the President and Chief Executive Office of the Hospital. Pursuant to 105 CMR 130.122, the Hospital hereby informs the Department of Public Health (“Department”) that on or about March 30, 2023, it intends to submit a ninety-day (90) notice of the proposed relocation of Morton Hospital’s Comprehensive Addiction Program (MORCAP) at the Hospital.

Steward and the Hospital understand that although it is not a technical closure, that the relocation of MORCAP to Dorchester will affect the Taunton community. As the Department is aware, in order to accomplish the relocation, there is a concurrent Transfer of Site (“TOS”) filing of the MORCAP beds that will mitigate the effects of this loss. MORCAP has 32 licensed substance abuse beds and out of this 32 there are currently 18 licensed substance use disorder abuse beds currently in service. The remaining 14 beds are being utilized as med/surg beds in response to the public health emergency and authorized by DPH waivers. This means that 14 of the substance use disorder beds are temporarily out of service. The proposed Transfer of Site will move 25 substance use disorder beds to Carney Hospital to create what will be called the Carney Comprehensive Addiction Program (“CARCAP”). Of the 25 substance abuse beds that are to be relocated, 18 are in service and 7 are out of service. The remaining 7 substance use disorder beds will close permanently.

Please note that in compliance with the Department’s regulations, the Hospital through separate correspondence is sending notice today to the Hospital’s patient and family council, each staff member of the Hospital, and every labor organization that represents the Hospital’s workforce during the period of the essential services closure process. Notice is also being sent today to the members of the General Court, as well as appropriate local elected officials. As part of this relocation, the Hospital is taking the appropriate steps to make sure that patients in the Taunton community will have seamless access to the relocated unit in Dorchester. As indicated above, the relocated unit in Dorchester will be called CARCAP at Carney Hospital but it will remain under the complete control of Morton Hospital and its substance use disorder team. Policies will be in place to ensure seamless referrals and transitions for all patients from the Taunton community. We welcome questions and engagement from the community as we prepare for the relocation of the MORCAP program.

Morton Hospital

A STEWARD FAMILY HOSPITAL



Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Andrew Levine, Esq., or me.

Sincerely,

Heidi Taylor
President and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Shaunna O'Connell, Mayor of Taunton
Senator Marc R. Pacheco
Representative Carol A. Doherty
Kelly A. Dooner, Council President
E. Kelley, DPH
W. Mackie, Esq., DPH
R. Kaye, Esq., DPH
J. Bernice, DPH
S. Carlson, DPH
D. Calvert, BSAS
W. Weil, BSAS
C. Bloom, Esq.
M. Girard, M.D., Steward
N. Hibble, Esq., Steward
A. Marx, Esq., Steward
A. Levine, Esq.
V. Lobban, Steward