

**Steward Health Care System, LLC  
Good Samaritan Medical Center  
# 22111516**

**APPLICANT RESPONSES #4**

*Responses should be sent to DoN staff at [DPH.DON@State.MA.US](mailto:DPH.DON@State.MA.US)*

While you may submit each answer as available, please

- List question number and question for each answer you provide
- Submit responses as a separate word document, using the above application title and number as a running header and page numbers in the footer
- When providing the answer to the final question, submit all questions and answers in one final document
- Submit responses in WORD or EXCEL; only use PDF's if absolutely necessary. If "cutting and pasting" charts, provide them in a PDF so they can be clearly seen
- **Whenever possible, include a table with the response**

**Factor 1a: Patient Panel Need**

1. **Explain how the GSMC site is the preferred site to address Patient Panel need for inpatient and outpatient psychiatric services compared to other locations in the Steward system in Massachusetts.**

GSMC is the preferred site because it has available land for a stand-alone behavioral health facility with easily accessible site utilities. While the site is separated from GSMC's main hospital building, it will still be easily supported by and benefit from the Hospital's infrastructure. Additionally, the site is set back from neighboring commercial and residential areas and allows for a generous secure outdoor area for patient activities and staff respite. Because the environment of care of a separate behavioral health facility is more appropriate than a hospital setting and contributes to improved outcomes, GSMC was chosen because it allows for a separate facility to be built.

2. **What impact will the relocation of psychiatric beds to GSMC have on access to such services for patients in Norwood and surrounding communities?**
  - a. **How will the Applicant support continued access these services for patients in Norwood and surrounding communities.**

The relocation of psychiatric beds to GSMC will support continued access to behavioral health care not only to patients in Norwood's community, but to a larger number of communities who need such services. Through this project, GSMC will have capacity to expand its behavioral health services and serve more patients in Southeastern Massachusetts and beyond. Because of Good Samaritan's central location in Southeastern Massachusetts, specifically its location just 2 minutes off of Route 24, patients seeking care in EDs across the region will have an accessible site for behavioral health care. Additionally, as is currently the case with behavioral health patient load balancing, the proposed facility will serve the needs of behavioral health patients across the Commonwealth.

Moreover, as described in the response to Question #1, GSMC was selected to host Steward's Southeast behavioral health beds largely because of the opportunity to construct a freestanding building on the main campus that can serve behavioral health patients in a dedicated environment separate from the Hospital's

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acute care patients. Coupled with the expanded range of services that will be provided in the new building and its convenient location, this option will provide a superior treatment environment for patients.

3. **The application states that the new facility will have two adult inpatient units (39 beds) and two geriatric inpatient units (38 beds) (page 1). What age-friendly measures will be incorporated into the design of the facility?**<sup>1</sup>

The geriatric units will include the following age-friendly features:

- Larger rooms to accommodate mobility support including assistive equipment;
- Color palettes will be adapted to the ageing eye – more natural tones, less yellow tones; attention to contrasts that affect depth perception;
- Attention to smooth flooring transitions, specifically at room entries and patient bathrooms;
- Specialty flooring with acoustic enhancements at group areas and dining rooms;
- Supplemental lighting in patient rooms and bathrooms;
- Tub rooms in each geriatric unit;
- Nurse call features at each bed;
- Medical gases provided at each bed for patients with medical comorbidities;
- Ligature resistant grab bars in all toilet rooms; and
- Ligature resistant handrails installed in corridors throughout the geriatric units.

**Factor 5: Relative Merit**

4. **Why was relocating these services to another location in the Steward system in Massachusetts the best plan for addressing current and future Patient Panel (Steward NE) need for these services?**

As previously noted, the Proposed Project provides Steward with the opportunity to not only centralize inpatient psychiatric services, but also allows for the expansion of psychiatric services in a freestanding building dedicated to the treatment and well-being of behavioral health patients, in turn serving a greater number of patients seeking care in Massachusetts. Because of Good Samaritan's central location in Southeastern Massachusetts with easy highway access, patients seeking care in EDs across the region will have an accessible site for behavioral health care. Moreover, the proposed facility will serve the needs of behavioral health patients across the Commonwealth through behavioral health patient load balancing. This centralized approach, both geographically and by service, will improve access, health care outcomes, and efficiencies in the delivery of care for the Applicant's Patient Panel.

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<sup>1</sup> Becoming Age-friendly means reliable practice of four evidence-based interventions, known as the 4Ms: asking what matters to older adults; making sure medications are helpful, not harmful to patients; attending to mentation, including delirium, depression, and dementia; and ensuring mobility so older adults can maintain their function.