

Green Mountain Care Board
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DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY

November 8, 2018

Ms. Beatrice Birch
Inner Fire at Grace Brook Farm
26 Parker Road
Brookline, VT 05345

Re: Docket No. GMCB-024-18con, Development of a Therapeutic Community Residence

Dear Ms. Birch:

Thank you for your August 20 and November 5, 2018 letters regarding the development of a Therapeutic Community Residence (TCR) on the campus of Inner Fire at Grace Brook Farm in Brookline.

According to your August letter, Inner Fire offers an outpatient day program for adults recovering from debilitating and traumatic life challenges without the use of psychotropic medications. The services offered onsite include biographical counseling, sauna therapy, rhythmical massage and music therapy, and are all non-medical in nature. The letter states that you intend to construct a 1,770 square foot residential building on Inner Fire's campus to house a TCR for up to eight individuals and two staff, and extend the same non-medical services currently offered to the new residents. You also note that you have submitted an application to the Department of Aging and Independent Living (DAIL), Division of Licensing and Protection, to be licensed as a TCR. Your November letter reiterates that the services to be offered onsite, if Inner Fire is approved for licensure, will be non-medical in nature. In addition, Inner Fire would offer "responsible medication tapering," a service delivered to residents offsite by an independent medical provider.

Because the services that would be offered by Inner Fire are non-medical—medication tapering services will be available to residents offsite, from an independent provider—the project is not subject to Certificate of Need review. However, if the facts we have relied on in this determination are incorrect or the project changes during the licensure process or at any time in the future, you must contact the Board so that we may determine whether further review is required.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (802) 828-2918.

Sincerely,

s/ Donna Jerry
Senior Health Policy Analyst

c.c. Judith Henkin, General Counsel
Pam Cota, Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living

