
DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY

June 22, 2022

Mr. Steven Horton
SHCCSI
PO Box 399
Walpole, NH 03608

RE: Docket No. GMCB-014-21con, North Country Hospital, Construction and Renovation Project Involving the In-Patient Department, Emergency Department, Lab Department, OT/PT/ST Department and Access and Canopies. Total Project Cost: \$27,898,176.

Dear Mr. Horton:

Thank you for your responses to the fourth set of questions for the above reference project. Please respond to the questions below.

1. Confirm the current number and the proposed number of medical/surgical inpatient beds. You have represented that you currently have 25 inpatient rooms with 5 maternal child health beds, 8 private inpatient beds, and 18 semi-private inpatient beds. You have represented that with the project you will have 4 maternal child health beds, 21 private inpatient beds, and 5 medical/surgical observation beds. Confirm whether the 4 maternal child health beds and the 5 medical/surgical observation beds are included in the maximum 25 medical/surgical inpatient beds for critical access hospitals.
2. You have represented that the four new exam spaces in the ED will be quickly and easily converted to serve an individual experiencing a mental health crisis and that these rooms will “likely contain a mechanism by which everyday exam room items can be concealed and safely locked away when required to do so.” Given that you have stated there has been an increase in the number of mental health ED visits, provide more detail about this mechanism, what is involved, and the time required to convert the rooms to provide a safe and ligature resistant room for use by patients experiencing a mental health crisis.
3. Confirm your current days cash-on-hand and what your days cash-on-hand would be if the hospital used only equity to fund the project.



4. Given the number of ED visits for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis, in FY19 (452), FY20 (402), and FY21 (381), provide the average length of stay of such visits for each of the three years.
5. What is the expected interest rate on the USDA loan you may be pursuing?
6. Explain whether North Country Hospital has applied for the New Market Tax Credits (NMTC) that will be awarded in Fall 2022 or whether the hospital plans to apply for NMTC in a different round. If the latter, identify when the hospital would be applying for the NMTC.
7. You have projected 2% increases for salaries and 4% for benefits. Explain the assumptions and reasonings for these projections.
8. Explain why the non-operating revenue is flat for the projected three years of the project in the Income Statement, Table 3.

In responding, restate the question in bold font and respond in unbolded font. Send an electronic copy to me at donna.jerry@vermont.gov and one hard copy (three-hole punched) with a Verification Under Oath to my attention at the Green Mountain Care Board, 144 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05602.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 802-760-8162.

Sincerely,

s/ Donna Jerry
Senior Health Policy Analyst
Green Mountain Care Board

cc. Laura Beliveau
Staff Attorney

