

July 24, 2023

Donna Jerry, Health Care Administrator
Green Mountain Care Board
114 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620

RE: Request for Certificate of Need Docket Number and list of applicable CON and HRAP standards for Inpatient Adolescent Mental Health Unit project

Dear Donna Jerry,

Southwestern Vermont Medical Center's (SVMC) is poised to submit a Certificate of Need (CON) application to create an inpatient adolescent mental health unit. A feasibility study of the project and service was recently completed in collaboration with the Vermont Department of Mental Health (DMH). In brief the feasibility study findings were;

- There is statewide demand for a 12-bed inpatient mental health unit for adolescents age 12 to 17.
- SVMC evaluated 5 spaces on its Bennington campus and identified a space suitable for the mental health unit
- A schematic design was created which included the required outside space and separate ambulance entrance
- The cost to renovate the space and create the mental health unit with support spaces was estimated at \$9.2M by SVMC's construction partner
- The Vermont state 2024 budget includes \$9.2M in capital for the project
- A staffing model was approved by SVMC, the Dartmouth Health Department of Psychiatry, and DMH staff
- The Dartmouth Health Department of Psychiatry will provide the clinical team
- The unit will serve patients with mental health and stable medical comorbidities
- The annual operating expenses of the mental health unit are projected to exceed \$6.0M annually
- DMH has agreed to a reimbursement model such that operating the unit will be budget neutral for SVMC

SVMC believes this project requires a CON because;

- The estimated renovation costs (\$9.2m) exceeds the hospital capital expenditure CON threshold (\$3.6M) AND
- The annual operational expenses for the new service (more than \$6.0M) exceeds the CON threshold for new service hospital operating expenses (\$1.2M)

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SVMC requests a Certificate of Need Docket Number and list of applicable CON and HRAP standards for the Inpatient Adolescent Mental Health Unit project

Feel free to contact me with questions about the project that would clarify which standards apply. The feasibility study could be provided if more information is required.

Sincerely,



James Trimarchi
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