
DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY

August 25, 2023

Ms. Linda Rossi, President and CEO
Brattleboro Retreat.
1 Anna Marsh Lane
PO Box 803
Brattleboro, VT 05302

RE: Docket No. GMCB-015-23con, Brattleboro Retreat, Re-opening of Paused Adolescent Residential Treatment Beds

Dear Ms. Rossi:

Thank you for your letter dated August 15, 2023, requesting a jurisdictional determination relative to the Brattleboro Retreat's (Retreat) intent to reopen the adolescent residential treatment program that was temporarily closed in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, when the Retreat focused on maintaining its adolescent inpatient and outpatient treatment programs throughout the pandemic. Until pausing the adolescent treatment program in 2021, the Retreat had offered adolescent residential treatment services continuously beginning in the 1970s.

You represent that COVID-19 upended the Retreat's patient flow and referral patterns as well as its staffing stability. During the pandemic period many programs were restricted or temporarily closed due to staffing shortages, difficulty getting patients across state lines, decreases in referrals, and concerns about managing COVID outbreaks in congregate living settings. The adolescent residential program was one of those programs affected by these COVID-related concerns. As a result, the Retreat temporarily closed its adolescent residential program. It is stated that the Retreat's strategic plan is aimed at strengthening the continuum of mental health services for children and adolescents and that resuming the adolescent residential treatment program is key to this vision.

You also represent that now that the pandemic has abated, the Retreat plans to re-open its adolescent residential program. The Retreat intends to respond to the recently published Request for Proposal (RFP) from the Vermont Department for Children and Families to create a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility for 15 youths aged 12-18. You represent that in doing so, there will be very few changes to the space that will be used for the adolescent residential



treatment program at the Retreat, there will be no change to the number of licensed beds, and there will be no capital expenses.

In conclusion, the Retreat represents that re-opening the Retreat's adolescent residential treatment program will allow the Retreat to effectively stabilize and discharge patients to a residential level of care for continued treatment.

Based on the representations contained in the document you submitted, the project is not subject to certificate of need (CON) review at this time. As you proceed with developing and implementing this project, if there are any changes in type, scope, services, or cost of the project (including, but not limited to, changes in capital and/or annual operating expenses), please contact the Board immediately so we may determine whether any further process is necessary. Failure to do so as required by Green Mountain Care Board Rule 4.301(4) may result in sanctions, as specified in 8 V.S.A. § 9445.

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

Sincerely,

s/ Donna Jerry

Donna Jerry

Senior Health Policy Analyst

cc. Laura Beliveau, Staff Attorney, Green Mountain Care Board

