



August 8, 2019  
Donna Jerry  
Senior Health Policy Analyst  
Green Mountain Care Board  
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Montpelier, VT 05602  
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Re: Docket No. GMCB-005-19con, Conversion of Licensed Beds

Dear Ms. Jerry,

The purpose of this letter is to respond to the letter that we received on August 1, 2019 requesting further information/clarification around our previous submissions.

**The Green Mountain Care Board had stated that on page 6 of the application that was dated on May 30, 2019 and revised Financial Table 6B submitted on July 2, 2019, both reflect an increase in Medicaid and a decrease in Self-Pay. Page 6 of the application indicates a decrease for Commercial revenue. However, revised financial Table 6B shows an increase in Commercial Revenue. Valley Vista has responded to this by correcting the discrepancy on page 6 of the application as well as providing the financial Tables 6A, 6B and 6C to reflect this information.**

**Valley Vista was asked to provide more information and assumptions to clarify the information represented on the Revised Financial Table 7 (Utilization Projections), submitted on July 2, 2019 and resubmit Table 7 (A, B and C) with additional information and assumptions.** Valley Vista has responded to this by completing and attachment to Table 7 labeled Clarification and Assumptions. We have also made one change to Table 7, changing LOS to 17 days, which will now match the footnote. We have also attached Table 7, including A, B and C for resubmission.

**Valley Vista was asked of the recent day available, August 5, 2019, to list the number of adult men, Adult women, and youth on the waitlist for Bradford Facility.** Valley Vista currently has 19 men pending on our adult men's waitlist; 4 on the women's waitlist (all of which are currently under the department of corrections); and 0 on the waitlist for our Young Adult Program as this program was dissolved in May.

**Valley Vista was asked to provide a detailed explanation of the program we were offering for youth, focus of the program, services provided, monthly occupancy rates over the last 12-month period (June 1, 2018-June 1, 2019), why the program was not fully utilized and date of program closure.** Valley Vista originally was licensed by the Department for Children and Family Services for a

total of 18 beds on the onset of the treatment facility coming to Vermont in 2005. Valley Vista was licensed as a Residential Treatment Facility for Adolescents ages 13-17 with Substance Use Disorder. Throughout the years, Valley Vista has asked for a reduction in the licensed capacity of beds from 18 down to 16, down to 14 and eventually down to 11 licensed beds. It is noted that Valley Vista was a residential treatment facility for adolescents with substance use disorder with the average length of stay being 35-45 days of residential treatment, and the state/referents were really looking for more of a long-term placement versus a residential treatment facility. The program closed on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 after many discussions with state entities around our census and the reality of best practice of youth being treated in their community, and only sent to residential treatment as a last resort. It is noted, our monthly average was 2.83 as we had many months in the year period that had zero referrals. Our highest referring month of the last year was October, with a total of 8 referrals.

**Valley Vista was asked to provide a background of a historical overview of Valley Vista/Bradford beginning with the date the facility opened through present time.**

Valley Vista alcohol and chemical dependency treatment facility began operations in 2004 with the help of Jim Jeffords and then VT Governor James Douglas. The treatment program started as a women's only facility to help address the addiction needs of women that had been kept captive as a part of a human trafficking operation that had been uncovered in Burlington. Approximately a year and half later, the Adolescent Treatment Program (ATP) was established and shortly thereafter a men's program. The facility, once a nursing home with a hub and spoke infrastructure, facilitated gender-specific programs on separate "wings" which remains today. By nature of its size, the adolescent program was co-ed.

Since opening, Valley Vista as treated nearly 8,000 individuals, a majority of whom are Vermonters. However, Valley Vista has touched the lives of patients seeking treatment for substance use disorder and enduring recovery throughout the northeast.

Valley Vista has been Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) since 2004 and was recognized in 2008 and 2009 for high level of performance related to Dual Diagnosis Capability in Addiction Treatment (DDCAT) by both the State of Vermont and Dartmouth Psychiatric Research Center. The audit was performed by Mark McGovern, MD.

In April 2017, Valley Vista opened its Vergennes facility in response to the closure of Maple Leaf Farm in February of the same year.

In September 2017, the founders and sole proprietors of Valley Vista sold the treatment program to Meridian Behavioral Health (MBH), a Twin Cities-based behavioral health / SUD company. MBH has seven brands that employs over 1,400 people at more than 20 locations throughout Minnesota, North Dakota, Maryland, Louisiana, California and Vermont. For more than 25 years, Meridian has developed and refined an innovative, evidence-based, "addictive disease" care model.

Sincerely,

  
Amanda Hudak, MS, LADC, MAC  
Treatment Director