

# MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

## Emergency Certificate of Need

**TO:** Lyle E. Sheldon, FACHE  
President/CEO  
520 Upper Chesapeake Drive, Suite 405  
Bel Air, Maryland 21014

April 8, 2020  
Date

**RE:** Establishment of a 13-Bed Behavioral Health Unit  
Remote Location of UM Upper Chesapeake Health System  
Harford Memorial Hospital  
at the Klein Family Harford Crisis Center  
in Bel Air, Maryland

EM-H20-12-020  
Docket No.

### DESCRIPTION OF EMERGENCY PROJECT

This Emergency Certificate of Need authorizes University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health System (UM UCHS) Harford Memorial Hospital (UM Harford Memorial Hospital) to establish additional temporary inpatient bed capacity consisting of 13 acute inpatient behavioral health beds to be located at the Klein Family Harford Crisis Center (Klein Center), 802 Baltimore Pike, Bel Air (Harford County) (the Site). The Klein Center currently consists of an urgent care walk-in center (licensed as an outpatient mental health center) and an eight-bed residential crisis service (with eponymous licensure). The project will convert five urgent care center bays and the eight residential crisis bed to acute inpatient behavioral health beds.<sup>1</sup> Medically unstable patients will be transported to the emergency department at the UM Upper Chesapeake Medical Center, approximately one mile away, which will have telemedicine connection with the Klein Center to provide additional support as needed.

The UM Upper Chesapeake System anticipates that, during Phase 3 of the UM UCH's Surge Plan, it will establish a behavioral health command center at the Klein Center to work in coordination with law enforcement and MIEMSS to triage behavioral health patients. At that time, the Klein Center will have a psychiatric physician or nurse practitioner on site 24/7. The project has an estimated cost of approximately \$155,000, and can be operational by April 27, 2020, if needed.

---

<sup>11</sup> UM Harford Memorial Hospital has changed the configuration of its existing inpatient psychiatric beds from semi-private to private during this COVID-19 pandemic. The hospital will create eight additional private rooms for behavioral health patients, with five created through conversion of space in its outpatient department and three created on the behavioral health unit. The number of resulting inpatient psychiatric private rooms in both Bel Air and at Havre de Grace will be 27, which is four fewer than its licensed acute psychiatric bed capacity. The anticipated cost for this conversion is approximately \$181,000.

**ORDER**

Upon consideration of the request of UM Harford Memorial Hospital, suitably detailed information provided by the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) and others, and consultation with the Chairman of the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC), Ben Steffen, MHCC Executive Director, determined that the lack of sufficient inpatient bed capacity at Maryland general hospitals resulting from COVID-19 presents a hazard to patients and/or employees, as provided in COMAR 10.24.01.20A.

Therefore, it is, on April 8, 2020, ordered by the Executive Director that an Emergency Certificate of Need issue for the project. It is further ordered that the requirement in COMAR 10.24.01.20C that UM Harford Memorial Hospital file an application for Certificate of Need for the inpatient beds established in this Emergency Certificate of Need is suspended by the Executive Director pursuant to COMAR 10.24.01.10A(2) until at least 30 days after the termination of the state of emergency declared by Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr. on March 5, 2020.

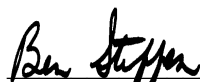
**Approvals by Maryland Department of Health**

This Emergency Certificate of Need does not constitute a license or replace any approvals for other aspects of the project that are required by the OHCQ or other divisions of the Maryland Department of Health to operate inpatient bed capacity at the Site.

**Further Action**

This Emergency Certificate of Need will be considered for confirmation by the Maryland Health Care Commission at its next scheduled meeting on April 16, 2020. This Emergency Certificate of Need initially remains in effect for a maximum of 165 days, as provided in COMAR 10.24.01.20C, or until 30 days after the termination of the state of emergency declared by Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr. on March 5, 2020. The Emergency CON may be extended beyond that date for good cause shown.

**MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION**



Ben Steffen  
Executive Director

cc: Robert R. Neall, Secretary of Health  
Patricia T. Nay, M.D., Executive Director, Office of Health Care Quality  
Renee Webster, Deputy Director, Federal Programs, Office of Health Care Quality  
Katie Wunderlich, Executive Director, HSCRC  
Russell Moy, M.D., Health Officer, Harford County