



# MARYLAND Department of Health

*Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary*

Office of Health Care Quality  
7120 Samuel Morse Drive  
Second Floor  
Columbia, MD 21046-3422

April 8, 2020

Ben Steffen, Executive Director  
Maryland Health Care Commission  
4160 Patterson Avenue  
Baltimore MD 21215

Dear Mr. Steffen,

As you are aware, on March 5, 2020, Governor Hogan issued a proclamation that a state of emergency and a catastrophic health emergency exists in Maryland, due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Based on the increased need for acute general hospital beds due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Office of Health Care Quality is requesting that the Maryland Health Care Commission apply its authority under COMAR 10.24.01.20 to grant an emergency certificate of need to University of Maryland Harford Memorial Hospital.

University of Maryland Harford Memorial Hospital will be establishing an inpatient behavioral health unit at the Klein Family Harford Crisis Center at 802 Baltimore Pike Belair MD. The facility is currently licensed for residential crisis services as well as outpatient mental health services through the Behavioral Health Administration. The hospital is converting the beds associated with the crisis services to acute psychiatric beds under its current behavioral health services. The purpose of the request is to address increased community needs during the pandemic and the provision of social distancing at their existing unit in the hospital. The Klein Family Harford Crisis Center may also be used as an off campus dedicated emergency room for behavioral health patients if the hospital's ED cannot meet the demand for emergency room care. Once converted the Klein Family Harford Crisis Center will provide 13 inpatient beds for behavioral health patients under the licensure of the University of Maryland Harford Memorial Hospital.

The Office of Health Care Quality recommends this certificate of need should be approved on an emergency basis, and based on the information provided by the hospital, these 13 beds can be provisionally licensed as part of University of Maryland Harford Memorial Hospital.

Please contact me if you have any questions at (410)402-8116 or (443)681-0278.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Renee B. Webster". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Renee B. Webster, Deputy Director, Federal Programs