

April 7, 2020

Maryland Health Care Commission  
Attention: Mr. Ben Steffen  
Executive Director, MHCC  
4160 Patterson Avenue  
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Dear Mr. Steffen:

The University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health (UM UCH) system is submitting the following request for an Emergency Certificate of Need to address the impending COVID-19 pandemic with the goal of being as prepared as possible for the potential surge of patients both from an acute care need and a behavioral health need perspective.

The below summary represents UM UCH's Emergency Certificate of Need request for the conversion of the Klein Family Harford Crisis Center (KFHCC) to serve as a Behavioral Health Command Center triage location for local EMS, law enforcement and alternate emergency department utilization, as well as the conversion of a portion of the current Behavioral Health urgent care setting and the utilization of the Residential beds within the KFHCC as outlined below.

Project Name:  
Behavioral Health Covid-19 Surge Plan

Description of Project:  
The Klein Family Harford Crisis center (KFHCC) currently consists of an Outpatient Clinic, a (17) bay Behavioral Health Urgent Care (UC) Walk-In Center, and an (8) bed Residential Crisis Service. It is licensed as an Outpatient Mental Health Center (OMHC) as well as a Residential Crisis Service (RCS) facility. For Phase 3 of UM Upper Chesapeake Health's (UM UCH) Covid-19 Surge Planning, the Klein Family Harford Crisis Center is requesting the ability to convert (8) RCS beds and (5) UC bays (total of 13 incremental beds) to inpatient behavioral health beds.

Additionally, during Phase 3 of Covid-19 surge planning, KFHCC will establish a Behavioral Health Command Center to triage all behavioral health patients that would require emergency department visits and/or inpatient care. This Behavioral Health Command Center would work in coordination with Law Enforcement and Emergency Medical Services to triage Behavioral Health patients.

Also during Phase 3 of Covid-19 Surge planning, UM Harford Memorial Hospital would establish (5) additional inpatient beds and (10) assessment/triage recliners (located in the Outpatient Department and Rehab Department of UM Harford Memorial Hospital) as well as an additional (3) inpatient beds on the Behavioral Health Unit for a total (8) incremental additional inpatient beds.

Location of Facility/Overview of Number of Beds:

*Klein Family Harford Crisis Center (802 Baltimore Pike, Bel Air Maryland 21014):*

- This plan will add (5) beds in the urgent care area and will convert (8) existing beds to inpatient behavioral health beds for a total of (13) incremental additional inpatient behavioral health beds.
- All patients received to KFHCC will receive a thorough health screening by a registered nurse. If medically unstable, coordination with emergency medical services to transport the patient to the UM UCMC Emergency Department. At Phase 3 of the Covid Surge Plan, the KFHCC will have a psychiatric physician or a nurse practitioner on site 24/7 and will have telemedicine connection to UM UCMC for additional support as needed.

*UM Harford Memorial Hospital (501 S. Union Avenue, Havre de Grace Maryland 21078):*

- This plan will add (5) inpatient beds and (10) recliners (*for triage purposes only*), provider sleeping space in the Outpatient Department as well as an additional (3) inpatient beds on the Behavioral Health Unit for a total (8) incremental additional inpatient beds.

Estimated Capital Cost:

- Capital expense projection: \$335,400

Projected Timeline:

Physical space changes including modification of staffing ratios and increased equipment will begin during Phase 2 of UM UCH's Covid-19 Surge Plan.

Why action cannot be delayed:

This plan has been developed as a component of UM UCH's overall surge plan specific to the inpatient behavioral health needs of our community. Additionally, due to the requirement to provide for appropriate social distancing on the inpatient Behavioral Health unit at UM HMH we needed to convert our current inpatient behavioral beds from semi-private rooms to private rooms. Furthermore, this plan also assumes there are no available behavioral health inpatient beds at high surge capacity due to high demand at UM HMH as well as no available beds at other local hospitals, full emergency departments with patient boarders, high demand for acute care needs for PUI/COVID behavioral health patients, as well as community agencies/shelters full or closed. These assumptions would exist along with the need to continue to accommodate behavioral health patients presenting to the ED, KFHCC, and UM HMH and UM UCMC. UM UCH will not turn away any person presenting to UM HMH or UM UCMC for behavioral health care needs.

Should you have any questions regarding this submission please give me a call at 443-643-3306, thank you in advance for your consideration of this emergency certificate of need request.

In Good Health,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lyle E. Sheldon', written in a cursive style.

Lyle E. Sheldon FACHE  
CEO/President  
UM Upper Chesapeake Health

cc: Suellen Wideman  
Renee Webster