



April 3, 2020

Ranada Cooper & David Cherry
Program Manager LTC Unit
Office of Health Care Quality
7120 Samuel Morse Drive
Columbia, MD 21046

RE: Emergency Certificate of Need Application – Layhill Health and Rehab Center

Dear Ms. Ranada Cooper and Mr. David Cherry:

On behalf of Layhill Health and Rehab Center (“LH”), a skilled nursing facility owned by Vita Healthcare, and pursuant to COMAR 10.24.01.20, we write to seek an Emergency Certificate of Need (“CON”) to increase our current licensed bed capacity by 7 additional beds. These beds are being requested in preparation for an expected surge in hospital discharges of patients requiring sub-acute levels of care to make room for COVID-19 patients.

The proposed addition of the 7 beds would involve the modification of 7 private rooms to accommodate an additional bed to convert them to semi-private. Staffing will be adjusted to accommodate the additional residents. These rooms were previously licensed/certified by the OHCQ.

The project will have the cost of approximately \$14,753 of additional beds, dressers, closets to be purchased and the outfitting of the rooms to meet the COMAR regulations. Vita currently has the funding and resources to begin this project immediately. We estimate that this project could be completed within 10 days of CON approval.

Layhill also seeks a waiver from the Executive Director or designee pursuant to COMAR 10.24.01.10C such that any emergency CON granted pursuant to this Emergency CON application not expire until 30 days after the declared state of emergency is terminated or 165 days after its issuance, whichever is later.

The importance of this project not only will address the surge of patients being discharged from the hospital, but will also allow us to have free beds to accept patients from other SNF facilities if they experience COVID-19 outbreaks and are forced to transfer patients. We are working diligently to identify within our buildings how, if in the case of greater emergency, we can devote entire wings to COVID-19 overflow patients and having additional open beds will allow us to do this.



As this global pandemic continues to unfold, Vita Healthcare is working day and night to ensure the safety of our residents and staff. We are continuing to ensure that we are prepared to handle issues as they arise, and the addition of the requested beds will help greatly. We would like you to know that Vita Healthcare is willing to contribute to our fullest capacity our help and assistance to the state to help during this global crisis. We respectfully ask that you act upon this request as soon as possible.

We respectfully request you to act on this request as soon as possible so that Vita Healthcare can begin work on this critically important project. Please let us know If you need any additional information regarding the requested Emergency CON Application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Craig Neiswanger' in a cursive script.

Craig Neiswanger