

Andrew N. Pollak, M.D.
CHAIR

STATE OF MARYLAND

Ben Steffen
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

4160 PATTERSON AVENUE – BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21215
TELEPHONE: 410-764-3460 FAX: 410-358-1236

October 18, 2019

VIA E-MAIL AND REGULAR MAIL

Thomas Dame, Esquire
Gallagher Evelius & Jones, L.L.P.
218 North Charles Street, Suite 400
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

**Re: Request for Exemption from Certificate of Need Review
Consolidation of University of Maryland Shore Medical
Center at Dorchester and
University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at
Chestertown
Acute Adult Psychiatric Services**

SUPPLEMENT TO OCTOBER 11 COMPLETENESS REQUEST

Dear Mr. Dame:

In its exemption request to move the acute inpatient psychiatric beds currently operating in Cambridge to Chestertown, Shore indicates that a significant cadre of behavioral health services will remain in Cambridge, e.g., three dedicated Behavioral Health treatment rooms in the FMF; an intensive outpatient behavioral health program for adult patients and additional outpatient behavioral health services to be located in the adjacent medical office building; and the Bridge Clinic.

Indeed, it seems as if the services originally earmarked for Cambridge in the earlier exemption request that would move the inpatient psychiatric beds to Easton is unchanged.

At the same time, the proposal speaks of expanding Shore Regional Health's (SRH) behavioral health services into new territory; Shore asserts that the Chestertown move will "expand behavioral health outpatient coverage for the region, including for residents in the northern portion of Queen Anne's County as well as the eastern and southern areas of Caroline County."

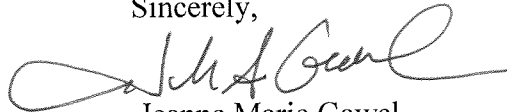
October 18, 2019

Page 2

It would seem that such an extension/expansion of service while essentially leaving the services that would exist at Cambridge under the original proposal intact would require not only retention of existing staff, but hiring additional staff. This is an issue we probably need to understand better; thus the additional questions that follow.

1. How will it be possible to continue to provide the services in Cambridge if the bulk of the behavioral health providers are located with the inpatient facility in Chestertown?
2. How many additional staff – and filling what positions – will be required to expand behavioral health outpatient coverage into the northern portion of Queen Anne's County and the eastern and southern areas of Caroline County?
3. Please describe which entity(s) in the SRH corporate structure will house the behavioral health providers that will be deployed throughout Shore's service area.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Marie Gawel

Health Analyst, Certificate of Need

cc: William H. Webb, Health Officer, Kent County
Fredia J. Wadley, M.D., Health Officer, Talbot County
Roger L. Harrell, M.H.A., Health Officer, Dorchester County