



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Commissioners

**FROM:** Wynnee Hawk, Director Center for Health Facilities Planning and Development

**DATE:** May 18, 2023

**SUBJECT:** University of Maryland Capital Region Health Certificate of Need for a Level III Perinatal Program/Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) in Prince George's County, Maryland (Docket No.) 23-16-2464

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Dimensions Health Corporation d/b/a University of Maryland Capital Region Health, Inc. (UMCRH or applicant) is seeking a Certificate of Need (CON) application approval for Level III neonatal intensive care services at University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center (UMCRMC or hospital). UMCRMC is an acute care hospital located in Largo, Maryland, Prince George's County. UMCRH also consists of the University of Maryland Laurel Medical Center, the University of Maryland Bowie Health Center, and the University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Group. The hospital is licensed for a total of 221 beds. Of the beds, 22 are dedicated to Obstetric and Gynecological care.

UMCRMC replaced Prince George's Hospital Center (PGHC) in 2021. UMCRMC is currently operating a Level II Special Care Nursery since its opening and is now requesting a CON to establish a Level III NICU at the hospital. UMCRMC expects that the proposed unit will treat a minimum average daily census (ADC) of 6.4 patients. There is no construction or renovation needed for the proposed project because the hospital was set up to provide Level III NICU services prior to PGHC's relinquishment of its Level III neonatal program. The applicant states that it can open the program immediately after receiving regulatory approvals. The proposed project also has no capital costs.

Based on the review of the proposed project's compliance with the Certificate of Need review criteria, and with the applicable standards in the State Health Plan, staff concludes that the project complies with the applicable standards, is needed, is a cost-effective approach to meeting the project's objectives, is viable and will have an impact that is positive with respect to the applicant's ability to provide NICU services in Prince George's County.

The conditions of the CON are as follows:

1. University of Maryland Capital Region Health will provide documentation to MHCC that it has been surveyed by the Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) to show compliance with the Perinatal System Standards for a Level III perinatal program and has been designated by MIEMSS as a provider of Level III perinatal service prior to implementing the Level III program.
2. After its initial survey, University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center will maintain its MIEMSS designation in accordance with policies and procedures for periodic resurvey and re-verification of compliance with standards or this CON will become void.

