

April 1, 2024

Michael Kennedy, J.D.
Executive Director
Division of Certificate of Need and Healthcare Facility Licensing
State of New Jersey, Department of Health
120 South Stockton Street, 3rd Floor
Trenton, NJ 08608

RE: Certificate of Need Application to relocate select acute care services

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

For over a decade, Monmouth Medical Center ("MMC") has worked to develop a plan that would allow the modernization of the aging infrastructure of its Long Branch campus. Emerging from the recent pandemic, the need for replacement facilities is all the more imperative to better serve the acute service needs of our service area. Enclosed please find MMC's Certificate of Need Application to relocate many of its acute care services to property that is owned five (5) miles away in neighboring Tinton Falls, NJ. Enclosed is the original signed copy, three (3) hard copies and an electronic media copy of the application.

Our decision to build a new 252 acute care bed hospital campus rather than building in place was confirmed by our patient origin and infrastructure studies. These analyses suggested that renovating the existing site in place would add capital costs compared to new construction, cause disruption to clinical operations and patients, take longer to execute and still be less accessible to a large number of current communities served by the hospital. Our communities deserve modernized facilities providing the best care environment in the shortest timeframe possible.

The new campus of Monmouth Medical Center will offer several key benefits: 1) clinical treatment areas and single-bedded patient rooms that will greatly enhance the quality of care, patient/families and staff experience; 2) the latest technology for advanced clinical care and electronic health information; and 3) a physical plant design that is significantly more efficient and a leaner complement of licensed beds.

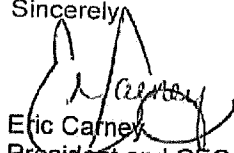
The new campus site is located centrally within MMC's current service area and is adjacent to our ambulatory care pavilion under construction as Phase I of our expanded campus, the Vogel Medical Campus. Included in this application is the rationale for the relocation decision, the alternatives considered and how MMC plans to comply with all regulatory standards. The new Vogel acute care campus will be built to include 90 medical surgical beds, 36 critical care beds, 16 pediatric and PICU beds, 70 OB/GYN beds. There will also be 40 Neonatal Intensive care bassinets to provide capacity for our current license of 23 Intensive and 8 Intermediate care neonatal bassinets until able to request an increase of 9 bassinets in a future certificate of need call. Newborn nursery bassinets will increase from 36 to 50.

We also address the plans for the Long Branch campus, which will remain a vibrant hospital facility providing comprehensive ambulatory services, an array of behavioral health inpatient and ambulatory care services, full emergency department services, surgical services and supporting observation/short stay acute care medical services with acuity adaptable patient rooms capable of providing intensive care services. The Long Branch campus will maintain 111 acute care beds comprised of 63 psychiatric inpatient beds (25 adult closed, 19 open adult and 19 pediatric closed beds) and 48 medical/surgical/observation beds with acuity adaptable single rooms inclusive of intensive care capability.

Despite the proposed reduction of 151 licensed acute care beds, we believe our proposal will increase and enhance community access with a Tinton Falls location while continuing to provide essential services in Long Branch. At the same time, we believe the proposed expanded campus location will allow us to move forward to meet the needs of the next half century for the growing Monmouth County population and communities.

We thank you and your staff for guidance and support already provided as we prepared for this process. We look forward to working with the Department to answer any questions or provide additional information as needed. In addition to contacting my office, Ms. Tamara Cunningham has been assigned as our contact for this certificate of need application and can be reached at Tamara.Cunningham@rwjbh.org or 732-418-8054. She will assure any items needed for this review are expeditiously addressed.

Sincerely,



Eric Carney
President and CEO

CC: Stefanie Mozgai, Assistant Commissioner, Certificate of Need and Licensing
George Helmy, EVP, External Affairs and Policy, RWJBarnabas Health
Tamara Cunningham, VP, System Development/Planning, RWJBarnabas Health