



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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www.nj.gov/health

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

JUDITH M. PERSICHILLI, RN, BSN, MA
Commissioner

May 4, 2020

Via Electronic and First-Class Mail

Mr. Robert Adams
Interim President and CEO
Newton Medical Center
175 High Street
Newton, New Jersey 07860

Re: Newton Medical Center
175 High Street
Newton, New Jersey 07860
CN ER 2019-9143-19

Dear Mr. Adams:

The New Jersey Department of Health (Department) has reviewed Newton Medical Center's (Newton) application Certificate of Need (CN) ER 2019-9143-19, dated September 9, 2019, requesting an extension of time for the implementation of CN FR 17 0524-19-0, which awarded Newton 9 adult acute care psychiatric beds. This CN was originally approved on November 17, 2017.

The Department has reviewed CN ER 2019-9143-19 and has determined that the application for an extension of time is denied. Newton application did not demonstrate that the facility has made enough progress in the implementation of CN FR 17 0524-19-0 as required by the standards set forth at N.J.A.C. 8:33-3.10. Specifically, N.J.A.C. 8:33-3.10 (a)2 requires that an applicant for an extension of time demonstrate that all local zoning and/or local building approvals have already been obtained. Newton has indicated in its application that no zoning or land approvals have been obtained and there is no construction underway. Newton explains that implementation of the beds has in fact been postponed while its parent company, Atlantic Health System (AHS), completes "...a strategic planning process that will guide the deployment of AHS' inpatient and ambulatory behavioral health services in AHS' ten-county service area." Newton further notes competing priorities for capital, staffing issues (specifically identified as the challenges of finding qualified practitioners in the rural northwest corner of the state) and declining reimbursement for behavioral health services have delayed the implementation of the beds. This justification for an extension of time undercuts the

rationale for awarding the CN to Newton in the first instance, as N.J.S.A. 26:2H-8 and N.J.A.C. 8:33-4.9(a) which require the applicant to demonstrate that it has sufficient funding to complete the project and that there is sufficient manpower in the region to successfully implement the project.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:2H-9, the facility is entitled to contest the denial of an extension of time by requesting a hearing at the Office of Administrative Law. A request for this hearing must be made in writing to the Department within 30 days of receipt of this notice to:

Joy Lindo, Director, Office of Legal and Regulatory Compliance
New Jersey Department of Health
P.O. Box 360
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

If there are any questions concerning this process, please do not hesitate to contact Felicia Harris, Chief, Division of Certificate of Need and Licensing at Felicia.Harris@doh.nj.gov.

Sincerely,



Marcela Ospina Maziarz, MPA
Deputy Commissioner
Health Systems

cc: Jean M. DeVitto, DOH (Electronic Mail)
Felicia Harris, DOH (Electronic Mail)
Susan Jackson, DOH (Electronic Mail)
Jeff Kasko, DOH (Electronic Mail)