



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Commissioner

April 28, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC & FIRST-CLASS MAIL

Ryan Meeuf
Chief Hospital Executive, Bayonne Medical Center
Chief Information Officer
CarePoint Health
29 East 29th Street
Bayonne, New Jersey 07002

Re: CarePoint Health – Bayonne Medical
Center
CN# ER 2017-0510;02
Change in Cost and Scope
Total Project Cost: \$2,278,000
Expiration Date: June 23, 2023

Dear Mr. Meeuf:

Please be advised that the Department of Health (“Department”) is approving IJKG Opco LLC, d/b/a CarePoint Health-Bayonne Medical Center’s (“BMC”) Certificate of Need (“CN”) application, submitted on May 1, 2018, for a change in cost and scope of CN # FR 17 0510-09-01, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:33-5.1(a)(2). The original CN to add 27 Adult Acute Psychiatric Voluntary (open) beds to Bayonne’s existing 15 licensed Adult open bed unit was approved on November 17, 2017. These 27 awarded beds were allocated to meet the identified bed need in Hudson County. The total project cost, originally identified as \$2,094,392, has been revised to \$2,278,000. This project cost will be financed by internal funds on-hand; therefore, this application is being approved at the total project cost as noted above.

Bayonne has submitted this CN application for change in scope to redesignate the 27 unimplemented beds from open beds to Adult Acute Psychiatric Involuntary (closed) beds. Bayonne reports that Jersey City Medical Center and Hudson County Meadowview Psychiatric Hospital (“Meadowview”) to be the only area hospitals closest to Bayonne licensed to provide inpatient services to adults requiring involuntary closed behavioral health treatment in Hudson County. Bayonne further reports that accessibility to involuntary closed beds is further reduced due to its inability to send patients to Meadowview as it is currently not a Designated Affiliated Emergency Service. The lack of available closed beds and referral options present barriers to service delivery and access to care, which leads to the prolonged overcrowding of psychiatric patients in Emergency Departments (“ED”) while waiting for pending vacancies. When involuntary or closed beds are not available in either of the two aforementioned Hudson County hospitals, a state-wide search for vacancies is explored leading to further increases in length of stay at the ED and delays in treating patients’ mental health crisis. Furthermore, Bayonne purports that approving this change in scope would also permit it to offer a continuum of care to patients accessible to their homes and families.

The Department is approving this change in cost and scope CN application based on the applicant’s statements of a purported negative impact on service delivery and access to care due to the lack of available involuntary closed beds. Further, consistent with the Department’s rationale for the final decision in the matter of CN # FR 17 0510-09-01, the Department again considers the applicant to be in the best position to identify the re-allocation of the number each of voluntary open and involuntary closed beds that will meet the healthcare needs of those patients with mental illness. Therefore, the Department is granting the applicant’s proposed change in bed designation.

The Department has taken into consideration the applicable regulations for the services subject to expedited review (i.e., N.J.A.C. 8:33-5.3 and 8:33H-1.16). The Department finds that IJKG Opco LLC, the proposed licensed operator, has provided an appropriate project description. The project description includes information as to the total project cost, operating costs and revenues, services affected, equipment involved, source of funds, utilization statistics, justification for the proposed project (N.J.A.C. 8:33-5.3(a)(1)), an assurance that all residents of the area, particularly the medically underserved, will have access to services (N.J.A.C. 8:33-5.3(a)(2)), and documentation that it will meet appropriate licensing and construction standards (N.J.A.C. 8:33-5.3(a)(3)(i)). In addition, IJKG Opco LLC has demonstrated a track record of substantial compliance with the Department’s licensing standards (N.J.A.C. 8:33-5.3(a)(3)(ii)).

Please be advised that this approval is limited to the application as presented and reviewed. The application, related correspondence and any completeness questions and responses are incorporated and made a part of this approval. An additional review by the Department may be necessary if there is any change in scope, as defined at N.J.A.C. 8:33-3.9. However, a change in cost of an approved certificate of need is exempt from certificate of need review subject to the following:

1. The applicant shall file a signed certification as to the final total project cost expended for the project at the time of the application for licensure for the beds/services with the Certificate of Need and Healthcare Facility Licensure Program.
2. Where the actual total project cost exceeds the certificate of need approved total project cost and is greater than \$1,000,000, the applicant shall remit the additional certificate of need application fee due to the Certificate of Need and Healthcare Facility Licensure Program. The required additional fee shall be 0.25 percent of the total project cost in excess of the certificate of need approved total project cost.
3. The Department will not issue a license for beds/services until the additional fee is remitted in full.

The Department, in approving this application, has relied solely on the facts and information presented. The Department has not undertaken an independent investigation of such information. If material facts have not been disclosed or have been misrepresented as part of this application, the Department may take appropriate administrative regulatory action to rescind the approval or refer the matter to the Office of the New Jersey Attorney General.

Any approval granted by this Department relates to certificate of need and/or licensing requirements only and does not imply acceptance by a reimbursing entity. This letter is not intended as an approval of any arrangement affecting reimbursement or any remuneration involving claims for health care services.

This approval is not intended to preempt in any way the authority to regulate land use within its borders and shall not be used by the applicant to represent that the Department has made any findings or determination relative to the use of any specific property. Please be advised that services may not commence until such time as a license has been issued by the Certificate of Need and Healthcare Facility Licensure Program.

Please be advised that services may not commence until a license has been issued by Certificate of Need and Healthcare Facility Licensure Program to operate this facility. A survey by Department staff will be required prior to commencing services.

The Department looks forward to working with the applicant to provide high quality of care to your patients. If you have any questions concerning this Certificate of Need approval, please do not hesitate to contact Michael J. Kennedy, J.D., Executive Director, Division of Certificate of Need and Licensing at michael.kennedy@doh.nj.gov.

Sincerely,

Robin C. Ford

Robin C. Ford, MS
Deputy Commissioner
Health Systems

cc: Stephanie J. Mozgai, DOH (Electronic mail)
Michael J. Kennedy, J.D., DOH (Electronic mail)
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