

### STATE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

# 100 NORTH UNION STREET, SUITE 870 MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104

August 17, 2021

Ms. Lesley Dunn
Finance Director
Washington County Hospital & Nursing Home
Post Office Drawer 4540
Montgomery, Alabama 36103

RE:

TW2020-014

Washington County Hospital SHPDA ID: 129-6530317

Dear Ms. Dunn:

On April 10, 2020, TW2020-014 was issued pursuant to ALA. ADMIN. CODE r 410-2-5-.09-E and 410-1-10-.05-E on behalf of the referenced facility for the utilization of ten (10) general acute care beds as swing beds in the provision of healthcare services due to COVID.

On May 24, 2021, the Agency was notified that the waiver to utilize these beds was not instituted, but that the facility is instead operating an additional five (5) swing beds authorized by CON 2939-H issued on March 8, 2021, for a total of fifteen (15) swing beds. As a result of this notification, this waiver is now deemed closed and all services are limited to Certificate of Need authorized services only.

Should you have any questions please contact the Agency at (334) 242-4103.

Sincerely,

Emily F. Marsal

**Executive Director** 

ETM/kwm



TW2020-014
RECEIVED
Aug 05 2021
STATE HEALTH PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

## **Washington County Hospital & Nursing Home**

August 5, 2021

Via Electronic Filing (<a href="mailto:shpda.online@shpda.alabama.gov">shpda.online@shpda.alabama.gov</a>)

Ms. Emily Marsal, Esq. Executive Director State Health Planning and Development Agency 100 North Union Street, Suite 870 Montgomery, Alabama 36104

RE: TW2020-014

Washington County Healthcare Authority Inc., d/b/a

Washington County Hospital

Status Update

Dear Ms. Marsal:

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Washington County Healthcare Authority d/b/a Washington County Hospital requested and was issued a temporary waiver to the normal Certificate of Need (CON) process to convert 10 acute care beds to swing bed services bringing the total number of CON authorized swing beds to 20.

Washington County Hospital did not institute or use the additional 10 swing beds. During the pandemic, Washington County Hospital applied for and received a Certificate of Need (CON) for 5 additional swing beds to permanently convert 5 acute care beds to bring the total number of CON authorized swing beds to 15.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter. If you have any questions, or need any further information, please feel free to contact me at (251) 847-4281.

Thank you,

Lesley Dunn Finance Director



#### STATE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

100 NORTH UNION STREET, SUITE 870 MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104

#### NOTICE FOR ISSUANCE OF TEMPORARY WAIVER

In the fifth supplemental State of Emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Ivey gave the State Health Planning and Development Agency (Agency) the ability to promulgate rules in order to issue temporary waivers to the normal Certificate of Need (CON) process for providers specifically requiring additional capacity or services directly related to the State of Emergency declared for the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Agency has filed two emergency administrative rules: ALA. ADMIN. CODE r. 410-2-5-.09-E COVID-19 State of Emergency, passed by the Statewide Health Coordinating Council, and ALA. ADMIN. CODE r 410-1-10-.05-E Emergency Provisions Related to COVID-19 Emergency, passed by the Certificate of Need Review Board. Both of these emergency rules can be found on the SHPDA website.

By filling out this attached form, the applicant has requested a temporary waiver under these emergency rules and it has been signed and notarized that this request is directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The affirmation by the SHPDA Executive Director is related solely to the addition and/or provision of any beds, stations, or services during the State of Emergency and succeeding 60-day period and does not affirm any permanent CON authority for such request. The affirmation shall also not be considered to be a waiver of any requirements related to the Alabama Department of Public Health or any other regulatory agency.

Pursuant to ALA. ADMIN. CODE r. 410-2-5-.09-E (3), the request as affirmed, "shall automatically terminate on the earlier of (i) as applicable, the discontinuation of services or closure of facilities subject to the waiver; or (ii) sixty (60) days following the termination of the State of Emergency as recognized in the Declaration." Furthermore, the rule states, "[a]ny continued operation of institutional health services authorized under a waiver granted pursuant to this section will require a CON, which shall be subject to existing CON criteria and procedures, including compliance with the State Health Plan, without regard to emergency rules adopted by the CON Board or SHCC in response to the Declaration. It is the intent of this subsection that services, facilities or other new institutional health services established as a result a waiver be considered 'new' for purposes of an application for CON authority to extend such new institutional health services beyond the deadlines in this subsection."

In addition, pursuant to ALA. ADMIN. CODE r. 410-2-5-.09-E (4), "new institutional health services authorized on a temporary basis pursuant to a waiver granted under this rule shall not be considered for purposes of the permanent need methodology in the State Health Plan."

For any questions or concerns, please contact the Agency at (334) 242-4103.

FOR STAFF USE ONLY:

WAIVER IDENTIFICATION: TW2020-014



#### REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF NEED WAIVER

FACILITY ID NO.: 129-6530317 COUNTY: Washington		
FACILITY/PROVIDER NAME: Washington County Hospital		
STREET ADDRESS: 14600 St. Stephens Avenue		
CITY: Chatom ZIP CODE: 36518		
AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE: Crissy Hayes		
TITLE: Chief Financial Officer EMAIL ADDRESS: chayes@wchnh.org		
DIRECT TELEPHONE NUMBER: (251) 847-4281		
TYPE OF FACILITY/PROVIDER: Critical Access Hospital		
Pursuant to a declaration issued by Governor Ivey on April 2, 2020, the following additional services are being enacted pursuant to Ala. Admin. Code r 410-2-509-E and 410-1-1005-E.		
Washington County Hospital requests to convert 10 acute care beds to swing bed services bringing the total number of CON authorized swing beds to 20. This request does not increase the total licensed CON bed capacity of 25.		
Does this request involve an increase in: Beds No X Yes Number		
ESRD Stations No Yes Number		
Provide a brief explanation of how these services will assist in the health and safety of citizens during the emergency (attach additional sheets if necessary):		

Washington County Hospital will convert acute care beds to swing beds to allow the additional capacity needed to provide more specialized care during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Furthermore, the additional swing beds would offer surrounding hospitals the option to utilize our facility during the surge.

Projected Construction/Renovation Costs:	\$ <u>0.00</u>	
Projected Equipment Costs:	\$ 0.00	
Projected date additional services/equipment	will be available for service: 4/9/2020	
	f a <u>new facility</u> and/or acquisition of <u>new equipment,</u> a separate sheet of paper and return with this form.	
The undersigned, being first duly sworn, hereby affirms that he/she has direct knowledge of the facts contained this request, and to the best of their information, knowledge, and belief, such facts are true and correct. The undersigned agrees to comply with the requirements and limitations outlined by Rules 410-2-509-E and 410-1-1005-E		
Signature of Authorized Officer	CH(09/2020) Date	
Crissy Hayes	Chief Financial Officer	
Printed Name  Sworn to and subscribed before me this	day of april 2000	
To the state of th	Notary Public	
(Seal)	My Commission Expires: March 9, 2024	
AFFIRMED BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:	Emy T- Marsh 4/10/2020 Date	