

February 2, 2022

Mr. Calvin Hawkins
Chair, Prince George's County Council

Dear Chair Hawkins,

I have reviewed the recording from the January 25, 2022 Prince George's County Council meeting and would like to clarify some of the information shared about the Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center (LHDCMC) behavioral health pavilion. Specifically, I would like to address the questions asked about a portion of the roof needing to be raised, as well as the anticipated opening date for services to the community.

LHDCMC is repurposing an existing building that previously served as a skilled nursing facility to now provide comprehensive behavioral health services. This building was constructed circa 1965 to the corresponding building codes. While we did not develop the presentation used by Dr. Hunter, slide 3 is accurate in stating that the north section of the roof was raised as it was too low to meet current building codes. There was no contractor error that led to the need to raise a portion of the roof.

Our original construction plans included a detailed analysis of the mechanical, plumbing and other ancillary elements that are located within the ceilings to ensure the floor to ceiling heights meet current building codes. In a behavioral health setting, there are additional safety concerns that must be addressed to minimize any potential for patients to access the ceilings and cause self-harm or damage to the building. We included contingency dollars in the total budget specifically for code-related issues such as this, which we expected to find based on the age of the building.

Slide 3 also correctly states that an April 2022 opening is no longer feasible due to national supply chain issues and construction delays that are occurring secondary to the COVID pandemic. We are taking all proactive measures to mitigate the impact of these delays. At this time, we anticipate an opening of our behavioral health outpatient services in the Summer 2022. The 16-bed inpatient unit is anticipated to open as planned in December 2022.

On behalf of LHDCMC, I sincerely thank County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and the Prince George's County Council for the \$20 million capital grant that is being used to transform this building on our Lanham campus into a state-of-the-art behavioral health center. We are honored to help residents in our community gain increased access to such important and needed services.

At the council's convenience, we are happy to provide you with further updates at one of your future meetings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deneen Richmond". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deneen Richmond
President, LHDCMC

cc:

Ms. Victoria Bayless, CEO, Luminis Health

Ms. Angela Alsobrooks, County Executive, Prince George's County

Dr. George Askew, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Health, Human Services & Education

Dr. Ernest Carter, Health Officer, Prince George's County

Dr. O'Tilia Hunter, Local Behavioral Health Authority, Prince George's County

Mr. Davion Percy, Managing Director, Percy Public Affairs, LLC