

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

February 25, 1991

To The Honorable, The City Council:

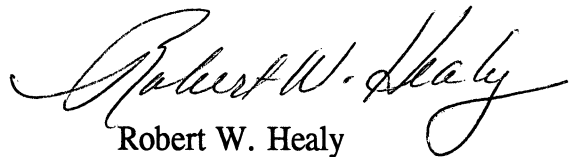
This memorandum is to keep you apprised of recent planning efforts for a secure adult inpatient psychiatry unit at The Cambridge Hospital (TCH). This project has been prompted by the imminent downsizing of Metropolitan State Hospital, which will result in the elimination of its existing Cambridge/Somerville Admissions Unit effective July 1991. The development of the unit is also consistent with changing patterns of mental health care delivery, with shifts in the focus of care from institutional facilities to community-based programs as a result of deinstitutionalization, and the growing recognition that inpatient care in a general community hospital may be more effective than a state institution.

The Cambridge Hospital is well qualified to develop and operate a locked adult inpatient psychiatry unit. As part of its 169-bed inpatient capacity, TCH currently operates a 12-bed locked child psychiatry unit and a 22-bed adult inpatient psychiatry unit which has run at approximately 98 percent capacity since its inception. TCH also operates a large psychiatric/aftercare department and the only DMH-designated emergency services program in the area. The locked unit will complement the hospital's existing services, will enable more efficient patient transfer and coordination between the inpatient units, and will facilitate coordination of the inpatient program with community-based programs, resulting in better integration of the mental health system. The Department of Psychiatry is affiliated with the Harvard Medical School and provides direct care and training for psychiatry residents, medical students, psychologists, and social work trainees.

The unit is planned for 17-beds and will be located on the third floor of the hospital's Cahill building, directly below the voluntary adult psychiatry unit. Development of the inpatient locked psychiatric capacity requires a complete renovation of the third floor, general systems improvement for the Cahill Building, and relocation of existing functions on Cahill 3 (a 10-bed inpatient alcohol detoxification unit and alcohol outpatient department) to other parts of the hospital complex. Estimated capital expenditure for the project is \$1.92 million dollars. Construction will commence by July 1, 1991, with anticipated occupancy of the unit by November 1, 1991.

Due to the emergency nature of this project and in order to continue clinical program development, commence design and construction, and transfer services from Metropolitan State Hospital to TCH in a manner which ensures that Cambridge/Somerville patients receive continuity of care, the hospital has already applied for, and been granted, a waiver of the State's Determination of Need (DON) Process for acute care institutions. DON review is required for purposes of licensure and for approval of rates which ensure adequate recovery of operating and capital costs under current hospital reimbursement formulas. Similar to the Child Assessment Unit, this unit would not require any additional tax support from the City.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robert W. Healy".

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mev

cc: Melvin Chalfen, MD, Commissioner, Health & Hospitals
John G. O'Brien, Hospital Administrator

CONSENT Agenda # 25 5291

RE: update of recent planning efforts for
a secure adult inpatient psychiatry unit at
The Cambridge Hospital.

In City Council,

February 25, 1991

Placed in file