



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Division of Health Care Quality
99 Chauncy Street, 2nd Floor, Boston, MA 02111
617-753-8000

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

JUDYANN BIGBY, MD
SECRETARY

JOHN AUERBACH
COMMISSIONER

May 5, 2009

Ms. Allison Bayer
Chief Operating Officer
Cambridge Health Alliance
1493 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

Re: Inpatient Substance Abuse – CHA Somerville Campus

Dear Ms. Bayer:

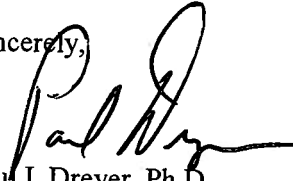
On March 18, 2009, the Department of Public Health ("Department") received notification from you of Cambridge Health Alliance's intent to discontinue providing inpatient substance abuse services at its Somerville Hospital Campus ("Hospital"). Pursuant to 105 CMR 130.122 (E) the Department held a public hearing on April 23, 2009. Following that hearing and pursuant to 105 CMR 130.122(F), the Department hereby finds that the services being discontinued at the Hospital are necessary for preserving access and health status in the Hospital's service area. In making this determination, the Department considered evidence presented at the April 23 public hearing, current utilization of the service, travel times to alternative delivery sites, the clinical importance of local access to the service, and other relevant information.

Accordingly, pursuant to 105 CMR 130.122(G) the Hospital is required to prepare a plan that details how access to these services will be maintained. The plan must be submitted within 15 calendar days of this letter and include the following elements:

- (1) Information on utilization of the service prior to proposed closure;
- (2) Information on the location and service capacity of alternative delivery sites;
- (3) Travel times to alternative service delivery sites;
- (4) An assessment of transportation needs post discontinuance and a plan for meeting those needs;
- (5) A protocol that details mechanisms to maintain continuity of care for current patients of the discontinued service; and
- (6) A protocol that describes how patients in the hospital's service area will access the services at alternative delivery sites

The Department will review the Hospital's plan pursuant to 105 CMR 130.122(H) to determine whether the plan assures access to substance abuse services for individuals in the Hospital's service area following the closure of those services. Thank you for your continued cooperation in this process. If you have any questions, please contact Ray Cryan at (617) 753-8114.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Dreyer", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul I. Dreyer, Ph.D.
Director