



MDH ATTENDEES: Laura Herrera Scott, MD, MPH, Secretary
Bryan Mroz, Deputy Secretary, Operations

Available For Questions: Will Andalora, Director, Office of Facilities Management and Development

**Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Capital
Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Budget
Response to Department of Legislative Services Analysis**

**House Appropriations Committee
Capital Budget Subcommittee
Delegate Mark Chang
March 4, 2024**

**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Capital Budget Subcommittee
Senator Craig Zucker
March 5, 2024**

The Department thanks the Governor, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and the Budget Committees for their support. We thank the Department of Legislative Services for its insightful budget analysis and for its recommendations to concur with the Governor’s allowance.

MDH should comment on the reasons for additional design procurement. MDH should also provide an update on the project timeline, including when it anticipates beginning construction.

MDH received DBM approval for a program modification for the Clifton T. Perkins Hospital North Wing Renovation on November 30, 2022. The program modification required modification of the original construction contract which extended the design timeline of the project. 100% Construction Documents have been completed for the project and are under review for procurement. MDH and DGS anticipate bidding will be completed by April 2024 and that construction will begin in June 2024. Project completion is anticipated by June 2026.

MDH should comment on how it will assure that the relocation will have as low of an impact as possible on patient treatment and additional staff workload.

The units that will be relocated will be medium and minimum security units which match what the Regional facilities are already equipped to handle. Treatment modalities and staff duties should remain the same as the units are licensed as inpatient behavioral health treatment and we expect equivalent staffing. We will make every effort to accommodate staff who need to relocate within the state guidelines.. Patients will be relocated to buildings that have been constructed to provide the appropriate level of security and safety for staff and patients, and to meet therapeutic needs for care.

MDH should comment on any plans for facility improvements at DHHC and WMHC given their “poor” ratings now that the department no longer plans to divest these facilities.

The Department is reviewing the services across the State to determine the most effective and efficient use of our facilities. By removing DHHC and WMHC from the divestiture list, MDH gains the flexibility to make facility improvements based on our assessment of future needs. Once we have determined the potential need for services in these areas, we will evaluate the scope and practicality of making the required facility improvements. It is important to note that this Master Services plan is still in process.

MDH should comment on the need for emergency funding and provide an estimated date for when the contract will be brought to BPW. MDH should also comment on the source of funds to support this contract.

MDH initiated an emergency project to develop interim capacity to support FFC and high intensity RTC patients in Cottage 2 at the RICA - John L. Gildner campus in August 2022. The emergency project was funded using FY 2023 MDH operating funds. MDH is working to develop a change order to the original emergency construction contract to open 6 additional beds at the beginning 2025. The change order to add the additional 6 beds will be funded using FY 2024 MDH operating funds.