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KAITLAN BASTON, MD, MSc, DFASAM Acting Commissioner

HAMMONTON CENTER FOR REHABILITATION AND HEALTHCARE (NJ Facility ID# NJ60113)

INFORMATION REQUIREMENT **ORDER**

TO:

Eliyahu Goldman, Administrator

Hammonton Center for Rehabilitation and Healthcare

43 N White Horse Pike

Hammonton, New Jersey 08037 EGoldman@hammontoncenter.net

The New Jersey Department of Health (Department) is vested with the responsibility of carrying out the provisions of the Health Care Facilities Planning Act (Act), N.J.S.A. 26:2H-1 to -27, which was enacted, in part, to ensure that all hospitals, long-term care and related health care services, rendered in the State of New Jersey are of the highest quality. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:2H-5(a), and the Department's rules, N.J.A.C. 8:43E-1.1 et seq., (General Licensure Procedures and Standards Applicable to All Licensed Facilities), the Commissioner of Health is authorized to inspect all health care facilities and to enforce the Standards for Licensure of Long-Term Care Facilities set forth at N.J.A.C. 8:39-1.1 et seq. In particular, the commissioner is empowered to inquire into health care services and the operation of health care facilities and to conduct periodic inspections of such facilities with respect to the fitness and adequacy of the premises, equipment, personnel, rules and bylaws and the adequacy of financial resources and sources of future revenues. Further, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:2H-5(e), at the request of the commissioner, health care facilities shall furnish to the Department such reports and information as she may require to effectuate the provisions and purposes of the Act. Moreover, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:2H-42.1(c), the Department may take appropriate actions to ensure continuity of care for, and the safety of, residents of long-term care facilities that are in financial distress.

Effective immediately, the Department is issuing Hammonton Center for Rehabilitation and Healthcare ("Hammonton Center") this Information Requirement Order. As detailed more fully below, Hammonton Center's financial viability, and consequently the provision of services to residents in its care, is threatened by its anticipated suspension, and the suspension of its owners, from the New Jersey Medicaid program.

FINANCIAL STATUS

This Information Requirement Order is based on information the Department received from the State of New Jersey, Office of the State Comptroller, Medicaid Fraud Division (MFD). Specifically, the Department became aware that on January 25, 2024, MFD issued Notices of Suspension ("MFD Suspension Notices") stating that effective one hundred and twenty (120) days from the date of the Suspension Notices, MFD is suspending Innova Atlantic WH Operations, LLC d/b/a Hammonton Center for Rehabilitation and Healthcare ("Hammonton Center"), Innova Gloucester Deptford Bridge Operations, LLC d/b/a Deptford Center for Rehabilitation and Healthcare, Centers for Care, LLC d/b/a Centers Health Care, Kenneth Rozenberg, Beth Rozenberg, Daryl Hagler, Centers Agency LLC d/b/a Centers Laboratory, and Centers Lab NJ LLC d/b/a MedLabs Diagnostics from further participation in any capacity in the New Jersey Medical Assistance and Health Services ("Medicaid"), NJ FamilyCare, Work First New Jersey/General Assistance, Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled, and Senior Gold Prescription Discount Programs, and any other programs (collectively, the "Programs") administered in whole or in part by the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS).

As a result of this suspension, DMAHS will not pay for any item or service that Hammonton Center furnishes, directs, orders, prescribes, manages or supervises, or in which Hammonton Center participates in any manner, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:49-11.1(b). If Hammonton Center is employed by or contracts with a provider (including an MCO) in any of the Programs that are reimbursed on a fee-for-service basis, or if Hammonton Center is associated with a Managed Care Organization with which DMAHS contracts, DMAHS will not authorize payment for any item or service in which Hammonton Center is involved in any capacity.

Given the facts currently before the Department, when the suspensions take effect, Hammonton Center may be unable to pay for its staff and for the goods and services necessary to operate the long-term care facility. Such failure will subject the residents of the facility to either actual harm, or an immediate and serious risk of harm, because the facility will not be able to provide its residents with necessary care and services.

INFORMATION REQUIREMENT ORDER

In accordance with <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 26:2H-5, <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 26:2H-42.1(c) and <u>N.J.A.C</u>. 8:43E- 3.1, the Department hereby notifies Hammonton Center that it shall have until February 29, 2024 to provide the following information.

A. FINANCIAL PLAN

By February 29, 2024, Hammonton Center shall provide information demonstrating its financial ability to continue to operate its long-term care facility. Specifically, Hammonton Center shall, on or before February 29, 2024, submit to the Department a detailed financial report and plan consistent with N.J.S.A. 26:2H-42.1.

- 1. The financial report and plan shall set forth, among other things, any defaults in the punctual payment when due of (1) any debt service where the debt is secured by real estate or assets of the nursing home, (2) any rent payments, (3) any payroll payments, and (4) any payroll tax obligations. The report should also provide proof that the facility has paid all property taxes and water/sewer charges associated with the real property on which the facility is located. A current balance sheet, income statement and projection of cash flow will be helpful, but not required, for the Department's analysis of any possible financial distress.
- 2. In light of the facility's impending suspension from Medicaid, the plan shall explain in detail how the facility will (1) maintain and retain current staff, (2) care and provide for the safety, welfare and maintenance of all residents, and (3) maintain and satisfy the operating expenses of the facility.
 - A. The facility shall provide proof of its ability to meet payroll for 90 days beyond the effective May 24, 2024 date of the MFD suspension, which may include a current and projected balance sheet, current and projected statement of cash flow, current and projected income statement, bank statements, bank reconciliation and a statement of sources of potential funding subsequent to the Medicaid suspension.

- B. The facility shall provide proof of its ability to meet all its operating expenses, including, but not limited to, medication, supplies, food, and contracted services, to ensure continuity of care and delivery of services to residents, for 90 days beyond the May 24, 2024 effective date of the MFD suspension, which may include a current and projected balance sheet, current and projected statement of cash flow, current and projected income statement, accounts payable aging, bank statements, bank reconciliation and a statement of sources of potential funding subsequent to the Medicaid suspension.
- C. If Hammonton Center plans to demonstrate its ability to meet payroll and all its operating expenses beyond May 24, 2024 by transferring ownership of the facility, Hammonton Center shall, at minimum, identify the proposed new owner and the closing date, and provide evidence of confirmation of same by the proposed new owner.

Please note if the facility is not financially viable or intends to close, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:2H-126, a long-term care facility is required to provide its residents, its residents' legal representatives, if any, and the Department with written notice when the facility is slated for closure. Such notice must be provided at least 60 days prior to the closure. While the statute permits the Department to waive the 60-day notice requirement, such a waiver is limited to emergency situations that warrant a more immediate closure of the facility. Because the MFD Suspension Notices will become effective on May 24, 2024, if the facility does not have a plan to remain operational after the suspension, the facility will be required to send the written notices of closure by March 25, 2024.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your anticipated cooperation. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Lisa King, Office of Program Compliance, at Lisa.King@doh.nj.gov.

Sincerely,

Gene Rosenblum, Director
Office of Program Compliance

Division of Certificate of Need and Licensing

DATED: February 7, 2024 E-MAIL REGULAR AND CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED Control #X 24018

C.

Pamela Lebak, Health Facility Survey and Field Operations