

**CERTIFICATE OF NEED
PROJECT SUMMARY**

Closed Acute Care Inpatient Psychiatric Services

Facility Name: St. Francis Medical Center CN #: FR 080108-11-01
Applicant Name: St. Francis Medical Center Total Project Cost: None
Location: Trenton (Mercer County) Equity Contribution: N/A
Service Area: Mercer County

Project Description:

The applicant proposes to expand its adult closed inpatient psychiatric beds (closed beds) by converting adult open inpatient psychiatric beds (open beds) into closed beds. Upon implementation of the project, the applicant's bed complement would be seven (7) open beds and 15 closed beds.

Justification of Need by Applicant:

The applicant proposes to promote access to low income persons, racial and ethnic minorities, disabled persons, the elderly, persons with HIV infection, and other persons who are unable to obtain care. The applicant indicates that its closed beds operate at over 80% occupancy, while open beds are at 30% occupancy.

Compliance with Statutory and Regulatory Requirements:

The applicant has stated its compliance with statutory criteria set forth in the Health Care Facilities Planning Act, as amended, at N.J.S.A. 26:2H-1 et seq., as follows:

- (a) *Availability of facilities or services, which may serve as alternatives or substitutes:*

The applicant notes that the other hospital in the city of Trenton with closed beds is also operating with a closed bed occupancy rate of over 80%. For the reasons indicated above, the available number of closed beds in the county is insufficient to meet the

need of the population served, and there are no other alternatives or substitutes to address this need.

(b) Need for special equipment or services in the area:

Closed inpatient psychiatric treatment is a special service that was established by the need methodology to require seven (7) additional beds in the county. For this reason, the applicant states its converted beds will directly address this unmet need.

(c) Adequacy of financial resources and sources of present and future revenues:

There is no capital expense for this project. The applicant has demonstrated its projected budget for the psychiatric unit indicates an excess of revenues over expenses.

(d) Availability of sufficient manpower in the several professional disciplines:

At the present time, the applicant employs 8 Registered Nurses, 4.5 program therapists, 1 unit coordinator, 0.5 mental health technician, 2.4 social workers, 1.5 unit secretaries, 3.3 psychiatric case coordinators, and 4.2 clinical associates. The facility anticipates hiring an additional 2.8 Registered Nurses, 2.8 mental health technicians, and 0.5 social worker. The applicant maintains that it has been able to meet staffing requirements and will continue to do so after this expansion.

(e) Accessibility to and availability of health care services to low income and medically underserved persons:

i. Percent of population in the county below poverty level

The applicant reported that 8.4% of the population in Mercer County is below the poverty level.

ii. Percent of care provided to Medicaid recipients, charity care, and uninsured

Payer Mix of Psychiatric Services				
Payer Type	CY '05	CY '06	CY '07	3-Year Average
Medicaid	22.0%	22.5%	25.0%	23.2%
Charity Care	27.4%	35.0%	33.0%	31.8%
Self-pay	03.0%	04.0%	08.0%	05.0%
Total	52.4%	61.6%	66.0%	60.0%

iii. Outpatient clinic services

The applicant reported performing more than 14,000 outpatient psychiatric clinic visits per year primarily serving the indigent and uninsured. These visits provide continuity of care for patients treated at St. Francis Medical Center.

iv. Public or private transportation services

As part of the discharge planning process, the applicant's social service department assesses patients' abilities to use public transportation. In addition, the applicant also provides private transportation services for patients who utilize the facility's outpatient clinics. The applicant estimated that a very limited number of patients are unable to travel independently or lack private means of transportation.

v. Assistance with residential placement

The applicant projected approximately 5% of psychiatric admissions are homeless. Staff assists patients with appropriate housing options, including referrals to the Board of Social Services for Emergency Assistance for the indigent homeless.

vi. Family support

The applicant offers a family support group to family members and/or significant others. Staff provides family members with education and community resources and encourages participation in the patient's treatment plan upon consent of the patient.

(f) *Demonstration of character and competence, quality of care, and an acceptable track record of past and current compliance with State licensure requirements, applicable Federal requirements, and State certificate of need requirements, as follows:*

i. Performance of applicant in meeting its obligation under any previously approved CN

The applicant has met its obligations under previously approved CNs.

ii. Capacity to provide quality of care which meets or surpasses the requirements in the licensing standards

The applicant provides care that is on par with the quality required with the licensing standards.

iii. Satisfactory track record

The applicant's track record is satisfactory.

(g) *Other applicable requirements which are specified in any health planning rule adopted by the Department:*

The applicant has provided documentation of its compliance with the requirements for the initiation and expansion of closed inpatient psychiatric services pursuant to the Certificate of Need Application and Review Process, as set forth at N.J.A.C. 8:33-4.10(a). Specifically, the applicant states that it does not deny inpatient admission to anyone on the basis of inability to pay.

Applicant Bed Utilization CY 2005-2007:

Open Inpatient Psychiatric Services			
	2005	2006	2007 (1st 3 Qtrs)
Admissions	90	109	81
Patient Days	409	422	516
Occupancy Rate	11.2%	11.6%	1.9%

Closed Inpatient Psychiatric Services			
	2005	2006	2007 (1st 3 Qtrs)
Admissions	458	432	337
Patient Days	3549	3503	2507
Occupancy Rate	79.8%	79.5%	91.8%

Recommendations of the local county mental health board:

- The Mercer County Mental Health Board offered no comment on this application.