



Department of Health

Three Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02908-5097

[www.health.ri.gov](http://www.health.ri.gov)

February 24, 2022

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Patricia K. Rocha, Esq.  
Adler Pollock & Sheehan P.C.  
One Citizens Plaza, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Providence, RI 02903  
[procha@apslaw.com](mailto:procha@apslaw.com)

**Re: Hospital Conversions Act Initial Application of Rhode Island Academic Health Care System, Inc., Care New England Health System (“CNE”), Kent County Memorial Hospital, Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island, Butler Hospital, Lifespan Corporation (“Lifespan”), Rhode Island Hospital, The Miriam Hospital, Newport Hospital, and Emma Pendleton Bradley Hospital (collectively, the “Transacting Parties”)**

Dear Attorney Rocha:

Thank you for your letter dated February 23, 2022, regarding the above-referenced matter. The Rhode Island Department of Health (“RIDOH”) hereby confirms receipt and accepts the withdrawal of CNE/Lifespan’s Hospital Conversions Act Initial Application (“HCA Application”).

In accepting this withdrawal, RIDOH recognizes the commitment on the part of the Transacting Parties regarding the HCA application and their ongoing participation throughout the review process over the past 10+ months.

RIDOH expended numerous, dedicated hours applying the principles of the Hospital Conversions Act. In doing so, RIDOH investigated the proposed merger application against the department’s review criteria as delineated in the Act. RIDOH was in the process of conducting a thorough and comprehensive review of CNE/Lifespan’s HCA Application, considering valuable feedback at recent public meetings. In light of this withdrawal, however, RIDOH recognizes it is unable to complete the review process and issue a decision.



State of Rhode Island

RIDOH will continue its efforts to safeguard the access, quality, affordability, and retention of the health care workforce in Rhode Island's health delivery system as a whole.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fernanda Lopes". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Fernanda Lopes, MPH  
Chief, Health Systems Development

[Sandra.Powell@health.ri.gov](mailto:Sandra.Powell@health.ri.gov)

cc: (Via Electronic Mail Only)

Leslie D. Parker, Esq., Regulatory Counsel

Ashley Taylor, Esq., General Counsel, CNE

Jodi Bourque, Esq., Associate General Counsel, Lifespan

Miriam Weizenbaum, Esq., Assistant Attorney General Chief, Civil Division

Maria R. Lenz, Esq., Assistant Attorney General Insurance Advocate

Sandra M. Powell, Associate Director of Health, Rhode Island Department of Health

Michael K. Dexter, MPA, Assistant Director of Health, Center for Health Systems Policy and Regulations, RIDOH

Jacqueline G. Kelley, Esq., RIDOH

Bruce D. Todesco, Esq., RIDOH