
Setting the Standard in Health Care Excellence

September 10, 2024

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT: Receive and File the Compliance and Monitoring Agreement of Aurora Vista Del Mar, LLC and Signature Healthcare Services, LLC, for Conditional Reinstatement of the LPS Designation of Aurora Vista Del Mar, LLC Subject to the Terms, Limitations, and Conditions in the Agreement.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Receive and file this Board Letter report regarding the execution of the Compliance and Monitoring Agreement of Aurora Vista Del Mar, LLC (VDM) for the conditional reinstatement of a Lanterman Petris Short Act (LPS Act) Designation at its Acute Care Psychiatric Hospital in the City of Ventura.

FISCAL/MANDATES IMPACT:

The proposed recommendations do not have a fiscal impact.

STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITY:

The item presented in this board letter aligns to the Healthy, Safe and Resilient Communities strategic priority of the County Strategic Plan as it is designed to address the safety of vulnerable individuals in the community suffering from Serious Mental Illness (SMI).

DISCUSSION:

On October 9, 2023, the Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Mental Health Interim Director Loretta L. Denering, DrPH, MS notified a local psychiatric hospital, owned by VDM, that its designation to evaluate and treat involuntary patients under the LPS Act would be suspended effective October 16, 2023. This notice did not affect the facility's license to operate and treat voluntary psychiatric patients, which is under the oversight of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

In November 2023 VDM applied for reinstatement of this designation. Since that time, Behavioral Health Director Denering has overseen an application and investigation process for reinstatement of VDM's LPS designation. As part of the process, Director Denering contracted with the Chartis Group, LLC (Chartis), to review and report to her on operations at VDM. Input from community members regarding their experiences with VDM was also solicited. On May 14, 2024, Dr. Denering recommended to this Board to conditional reinstatement of the designation, subject to execution of a Compliance and Monitoring Agreement.

On August 20, 2024, the Compliance and Monitoring Agreement was fully executed between VDM and the County. As a next step, VDM will be required to: retain an independent consultative expert(s) approved by the Director, who will 1) work with VDM to develop a plan identifying specific actions to be taken in order for the facility to remain in compliance with LPS Act requirements; and 2) monitor operations there and submit monthly comprehensive written reports to the Director. Once the Behavioral Health Director approves and VDM hires the consultative experts VDM may begin admitting a limited number of involuntary patients to their facility (initially 2 at a time.) VDM may apply to the Director once per month for an increase in that census limit.

VCBH will continue to provide the Board with periodic updates on this topic via this Board's public agenda.

VCBH recommends that your Board receive and file this Board Letter Report and the executed Compliance and Monitoring Agreement.

This Board letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office and County Counsel. If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact VCBH Behavioral Health Director Loretta L. Denering, DrPH, MS at (805) 981-2214.



LORETTA L. DENERING, DrPH, MS
Behavioral Health Director



THERESA CHO, MD, MHA
Health Care Agency Director

Attachments:

Exhibit 1 – VDM Compliance and Monitoring Agreement