

## Dept. of Health, AG Give Conditional Approval to LMW Healthcare (Westerly Hospital) and Yale-New Haven Affiliation

PROVIDENCE – The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) approved, with conditions, the proposed affiliation between Westerly Hospital (LMW Healthcare) and Yale-New Haven Health Services Corporation.

“We looked very closely at the application and issued a decision with a series of patient- and community-focused conditions,” said Director of Health **NICOLE ALEXANDER-SCOTT, MD, MPH**.

RIDOH accepted an affiliation application from the organizations on June 11, 2016. A public meeting about the affiliation was held in Westerly on August 2, 2016.

Some of the conditions of the decision include that the new hospital must:

- Submit a plan for the delivery of primary care within an integrated healthcare delivery system for physical (including oral health) and behavioral health (including mental health and substance use) in the new hospital’s service area;
- Submit a plan to address the social and environmental factors within the new hospital’s service area that affect people’s health (for example, through coordination with RIDOH’s Health Equity Zone initiative);

- Ensure access to services for all patients without discrimination, including payment source or ability to pay;
- Participate in interventions to improve the safety of opioid prescribing and expand medication-assisted treatment and services to address the overdose epidemic;
- Submit a plan to RIDOH for the development of relationships with local tribal nations; and
- Make the CurrentCare data available at all clinical sites.

In addition to this Hospital Conversion Act approval signed by Dr. Alexander-Scott, she also accepted the unanimous recommendation of the Health Services Council to approve the Change in Effective Control application submitted by the two organizations.

The Health Services Council is a group that advises RIDOH on healthcare facility licensing reviews. For the affiliation to move forward, both the Hospital Conversion Act and Change in Effective Control applications needed approval (along with approval from the Rhode Island Attorney General).

On September 6, Attorney General Peter F. Kilmartin also announced that the Office of Attorney General (RIAG) has approved, with conditions, the proposed affiliation.

Under the Hospital Conversions Act, the Attorney General has 90 days to review and issue a decision on an expedited application. ❖



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## Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Lifespan sign MOU

PROVIDENCE – Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Lifespan leadership have signed a memorandum of understanding to form a partnership that will advance cancer treatment and expand research. The details will be finalized early next year.

The partnership will focus on five areas: genomics and precision medicine; clinical trials; value-based care and cancer care delivery innovation; shared care models; and cancer workforce development. As the planning moves forward, the two organizations are already collaborating on a multi-site grant application to the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) to study the clinical utility of genomics information.

“This is an exciting opportunity to create a meaningful and impactful partnership,” said **DAVID E. WAZER, MD**, director of the Lifespan Comprehensive Cancer Center. “More can be accomplished when strong organizations work together on joint research projects, the development of innovative new treatments, and ensuring access to the best care for our entire community.” ❖