



## STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **New Study Confirms Need for Acute Care Hospital**

**(May 2, 2023)** — An assessment of Rhode Island’s healthcare system has determined the state needs to maintain a long-term acute care hospital that is able to serve patients who need acute care and those who need extended services while they await appropriate discharge options.

The study by Faulkner Consulting Group looked at discharge data from hospitals in Rhode Island and assessed the state’s current and future needs, reviewing insurance claims, national benchmarks, and population demographics. In addition, the study sought input from leaders at Rhode Island hospitals, seeking their perspective on the need for a long-term acute care facility where patients could be transferred after receiving intensive care.

Based on this research, Faulkner recommends a long-term acute care facility with approximately 100 beds to serve patients needing hospital level care and those needing extended services. The study provides critical input as the state seeks to construct a new medical facility that will enable Eleanor Slater Hospital to fulfill a unique and much-needed role at its Burrillville campus.

“This research outlines the importance of a new facility and highlights the services that facility will provide. It also confirms the challenges that Rhode Island’s medical community has been contending with since the start of the pandemic, and the need for a facility to treat acute care patients as they are on the road to recovery,” said Richard Charest, Director of the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals, which oversees Eleanor Slater Hospital. “This is an exciting time for Rhode Island and for Eleanor Slater Hospital, because the new hospital building at the Burrillville campus will support our continuum of care with enhanced care options, new job opportunities, expanded capacity, and modern amenities for all patients and staff.”

Members of the public are welcome to attend a Community Town Hall on Thursday, May 4, at 1 p.m. This meeting will be held both virtually via Microsoft Teams (<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting>) (Meeting ID: 234 830 961 227 and Passcode: mQU6yT) and in person at the Beazley Building Medical Library, 2090 Wallum Lake Rd., Pascoag, RI 02859. This is an opportunity to learn more and share suggestions for the success of this project.

With the Faulkner study results in hand, the state can now move forward with a review of architectural and engineering options that will determine the size and scope of the project.

Once open, the new facility will replace current operations in Eleanor Slater Hospital's Beazley building, which opened in 1905. Patients and staff currently in the Beazley building will transition to the new facility.

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