



Homer Venters, MD, MS
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July 22, 2016

Stanley Brezenoff, Chair
NYC Board of Correction
1 Centre Street, Room 2213
New York, NY 10007

Re: Variance Request to BOC Minimum Standards Regarding Implementation of the Young Adult Plan and the Separation of Inmates Ages 18 through 21 from Inmates Ages 22 and Over: Section 1-02

Dear Mr. Brezenoff:

On November 10, 2015, the NYC Board of Correction (“Board”) granted a request submitted by the NYC Health + Hospitals for a continuing variance from the BOC Minimum Standards §1-02(c)(1), which required that “no later than October 15, 2015...inmates ages 18 through 21 be housed separately and apart from inmates over the age of 21.” The variance allowed for inmates from these two age groups to be housed together in specialized mental health units--including but not limited to the Program for Accelerating Clinical Effectiveness (PACE) and Clinical Alternative to Punitive Segregation (CAPS) units and for the provision of services through the KEEP program at Anna M. Kross Center (AMKC)—and in the NIC infirmary and WF communicable disease unit (CDU).

Pursuant to §1-15(b)(2)(i) of the Board’s Minimum Standards, the New York City Health + Hospitals requests that the continuing variance approved on November 10, 2015 be expanded to include three other specialized units: the RMSC infirmary, the RMSC nursery and RMSC pregnant inmate housing. The limited number of young adults at RMSC who need medical care in an infirmary setting, or need to be housed in the nursery or pregnant housing would not justify the resources necessary to build and staff a second set of such units. Inmate/patients 18-21 years of age requiring such housing have traditionally been housed with other age groups in these areas without incident.

We appreciate the Board’s immediate consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Venters', is placed over a light gray rectangular background.

Homer Venters, M.D., M.S.
Chief Medical Officer
Assistant Vice President
Correctional Health Services

c: Patsy Yang, DrPH, Senior Vice President, H+H