

By E-Mail
(DPH.DON@massmail.state.ma.us)

DATE

Dennis Renaud
Determination of Need Program
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street
Boston, MA

RE: DoN Application #NHMV-22090717-LE

Dear Mr. Renaud:

I am writing in support of Navigator Homes of Martha's Vineyard's above referenced Determination of Need application to re-locate and re-build Windemere Nursing & Rehabilitation Center.

Intro Paragraph

Martha's Vineyard is at a critical point for how it provides skilled nursing and long-term care services to residents of the Island. If approved, Navigator Homes will not only expand access to long-term care, but create on-Island access to short-term rehabilitation. Just as importantly, these services will be provided in a home-like environment with a focus on quality of life. This project is vital to the ability of the Island to offer these services within the community, as well as in a manner that prioritizes high quality care, resident dignity, and improved health outcomes.

Please choose from the following topics and bullet points to develop a personalized letter.

#1 – Only on-island option

- Windemere Nursing & Rehabilitation Center is the only on-island option for long-term care.
- There is no on-island option for short-term rehabilitation.
- Windemere only has 30 beds in operation and cannot meet current demand for skilled nursing services.

#2 – Green House Model

- Navigator Homes is proposing to implement the Green House Model, a revolutionary care-delivery framework.
- Instead of traditional, institutional facilities, the Green House Model uses “Green Homes”, home-like buildings that house no more than 14 residents.
- Residents live in private bedrooms with their own en suite full bathroom and have access to shared living space, encouraging socialization and companionship.

- Private rooms promote resident autonomy and choice, giving greater opportunities to set their own schedules, including when they wake up and go to bed.
- Care will be provided by a consistent, empowered work team of universal caregivers who are responsible for the range of personal, clinical, and home care activities.
- In-home staff provide direct care as well as cooking, cleaning, ordering, scheduling, and other holistic caregiver tasks.

#3 Staffing

- The main reason Windemere has closed more than half its beds is due to staffing.
- Windemere cannot retain staff because of the limited options for affordable housing on the island.
- The Proposed Project includes on-site subsidized housing for Windemere staff.
- In partnership with Martha's Vineyard Hospital, 30 one-bedroom apartments will be available on a sliding rent scale.
- Instead of commuting by ferry, staff will be able to walk to work.
- Staff will be members of the community – increased personal satisfaction, economic boost, reduced call-outs due to weather.

#4 – The Current Windemere

- The current facility is located within Martha's Vineyard hospital
- Institutional setting
- Inconvenient for visitors
- Limited options for outdoor access
- Rooms are semi-private with shared bathroom facilities

#5 – Aging Population

- 33% of Martha's Vineyard's year-round residents are age 65 and older.
- Demand for a long-term care facility on Martha's Vineyard is projected to increase with the aging population.
- Assuming just 2.3% of residents over the age of 65 will need skilled nursing, the Island will need more than 100 beds to meet demand.

Conclusion

For the reasons discussed above, I encourage the Department of Public Health to vote in favor of this project.

Salutation,
Signature