



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA STATEMENT - WAREHAM HEALTHCARE

WAREHAM, MA, April 9, 2021 – On March 30, 2021, a Notice of Intent to Close Wareham Healthcare (the “Facility”) was submitted. On December 1, 2017, 50 Indian Neck Road Operator, LLC d/b/a Wareham Healthcare, a wholly-owned affiliate of Next Step Healthcare began leasing and operating the Facility. The expiration date of this lease was February 28, 2021. Ultimately the Facility’s landlord was not willing to renew the lease or sell the Facility and demanded that Next Step close the Facility. The landlord has agreed to extend the lease to provide sufficient time to complete the closure process.

For more than 13 months, Wareham Healthcare has been working tirelessly to create a safe, effective care environment for our residents and employees amid the global COVID-19 pandemic. During this time, there have been 8 confirmed COVID19 cases amongst Wareham Healthcare employees and residents and 100% of these cases have fully recovered resulting in no COVID-19 related deaths at Wareham Healthcare. We are extremely proud of our frontline caregivers for being diligent in their infection control protocols in providing care to Wareham Healthcare residents. With several affiliated locations in close proximity to the facility, we have extended offers to employees to remain with the company and transfer within the organization retaining their seniority, which ranges from a less than one year to 32 years working in the facility.

Over the past several years, skilled nursing facilities have struggled as a result of underfunding and a number of facilities have closed. Although there have been some recent increases in funding, there have also been many mandates for nursing facilities that are not reimbursed by the EOHHS Medicaid Program. One of these recent changes is the mandate for a skilled nursing facility to maintain a 3.58 HPPD nursing staffing ratio with .51 being RN coverage. We support and embrace the ability to have increased staffing levels, however, there was no additional funding afforded for this increased labor cost. This unfunded increase in staffing expense, combined with the elevated operating costs necessitated by the pandemic, and accompanied by severely reduced revenues resulting from lower occupancy in skilled nursing facilities contributed to the landlord’s decision to close the Facility and utilize the physical real estate for alternate endeavors.

A public hearing has been scheduled by the Department of Public Health (DPH) on Wednesday, April 21, 2021.

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Additional media inquiries can be made to info@nextstephc.com.