

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 27, 2022

To: Yi-An Huang, City Manager
City of Cambridge

From: Assaad Sayah, MD, CEO
Cambridge Health Alliance

RE: Response to POR 2022 #160

Thank you for bringing City Council Policy Order POR 2022 #160 regarding the Cambridge Birth Center to my attention.

CHA understands the importance of, and is committed to providing, midwifery services and equitable access to safe maternal care for all of the communities it serves.

During the COVID pandemic, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts order that all outpatient services be halted, to focus on the Commonwealth's greater need for inpatient services. The Cambridge Birth Center is licensed as an outpatient site, and in compliance with the state mandate CHA halted services at that facility while continuing to provide midwifery services within the McGovern Maternity Suite at the CHA Cambridge Hospital campus. Shortly after the Commonwealth allowed outpatient services to reopen, CHA resumed providing outpatient midwifery services at the Cambridge Birth Center and other locations, namely the CHA Cambridge Hospital campus, the CHA Somerville campus, and the CHA East Cambridge and Revere Care Centers.

While CHA continues to provide midwifery services at the Cambridge Birth Center and across its system, staffing shortages, programmatic issues, facility concerns, and significant cost issues have led CHA to keep performing all deliveries in its McGovern Maternity Suite. To address these complicated and intertwined issues, with the help of an outside expert consultant, CHA is undertaking a comprehensive assessment of its birth center programming, including whether CHA can safely provide deliveries at the existing Cambridge Birth Center.

I will keep you updated on this matter.

Thank you.



AFFILIATED WITH:



Beth Israel Deaconess
Medical Center



MassGeneral Hospital
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