



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Savannah Ragali, MBA
Director of Marketing & Communications
Phone: 959-208-5796
Email: SRagali@AthenaHealthCare.com

Abbott Terrace CMS Update

WATERBURY, Conn. – September 11, 2024: Abbott Terrace, a 205-bed skilled nursing facility located in Waterbury, Connecticut, has been providing quality and compassionate care since 1986 to the greater Waterbury region.

Abbott Terrace supports Connecticut residents and gives them the opportunity for short-term rehabilitation, long-term care, respite services, hospice care and a specialized unit for those with dementia. The center also offers a unique niche in caring for individuals with substance use disorder and behavioral health needs. Waterbury is home to two major hospitals with Level II trauma centers, and Abbott Terrace is an important part of the health care continuum for patients discharged from these hospitals every day.

Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) identified updates that needed to be made to the physical plant, particularly flooring. Due to the magnitude of the project and availability of vendors, products, and the need to relocate residents, these factors extended the regulatorily required timeframe of the project completion. In addition, relocating residents in order to commence the repairs required 30-day legal notice given to the residents.

Approximately \$200,000 was invested in renovating the flooring in the specified areas. The facility had also earmarked additional dollars for further renovations to benefit the quality of life and life safety of the residents at Abbott Terrace.

During a subsequent DPH revisit in late August, a fire door was identified as requiring updates to comply with life safety codes. DPH made a revisit to inspect this door and noted compliance. However, during the revisit observed another door to be out of compliance. The issue with the second door was rectified swiftly the same day.

Though we addressed all issues and had expected to achieve compliance in early September, the facility was notified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) that they terminated our participation in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. In turn, this will result in the inability for Abbott Terrace to operate and require closure due to the loss of federal and state reimbursement.

Our team did everything possible in the past several weeks to address the physical plant concerns identified by DPH. We have invested significant financial resources in returning our facility to compliance

by upgrading floors, doors, and other identified facility infrastructure. We believed that the identified issues had been successfully resolved. We are aggressively working with Representatives in the area, Congressman and women, and State Senators to avoid this outcome.

While we will continue to meet with both the Connecticut DPH and CMS officials and take steps to return our program to full compliance, at this time we must prepare for the closure of the facility. This includes identifying other locations for our residents and supporting our staff as they prepare to transfer to other employers. Our highest priority is assuring continued quality of care for our residents during this period.

Currently, the center is home to 180 residents, including those with behavioral health challenges, substance use disorders, and dementia. Abbott Terrace employs 287 people; Notably, 11 employees have between 30-38 years of service; 25 employees between 20-28 years of service; and 26 employees between 10-19 years of service.

###

About Abbott Terrace Health Care Center

Abbott Terrace Health Care Center is located at 44 Abbott Terrace, in Waterbury, Connecticut. Abbott Terrace offers services in short and long-term rehabilitation, respite, and hospice care. For more information regarding Abbott Terrace Health Care Center, its programs and services, patient admissions placement or career opportunities, please visit abbottterrace.com, or call 203.755.4870.