The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619
617-624-6000 | mass.gov/dph

Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Kiame Mahaniah, MD, MBA
Secretary

Robert Goldstein, MD, PhD
Commissioner

Timothy Carroll
House Clerk
State House Room 145
Boston, MA 02133

Michael D. Hurley
Senate Clerk
State House Room 335
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Mr. Carroll and Mr. Hurley,

Pursuant to line-item 4590-0915 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025, please find enclosed a report from the Department of Public Health entitled "Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital for Children Status."

Sincerely,

Robbie Goldstein, MD, PHD
Commissioner
Department of Public Health

Legislative Mandate

The following report is hereby issued pursuant to Line Item 4590-0915 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025 as follows:

"provided further, that not later than August 18, 2025 and monthly thereafter, the department shall submit a report to the joint committee on public health and the house and senate committees on ways and detailing the status of the Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital for Children; provided further, that the report shall include, but not be limited to: (i) a summary of the types of services and programs available through the hospital including, but not limited to, medical, recreational and educational services; (ii) a summary of any reductions or terminations of services for patients and rationales for each change; (iii) the census at the hospital on January 1, 2025; (iv) the number of admittances per month since January 1, 2025; (v) the number of discharges per month since January 1, 2025; and (vi) the total number of staff employed at the facility, delineated by profession including, but not be limited to, teachers, nurses, administrative staff and other professionals"

Report

(i) Summary of Services

Medical

Medically Complex Care: Patients admitted primarily for management of medical and rehabilitative needs that require hospital level care.

Medical / Behavioral Service: Patients admitted with combined medical complexity and behavioral health challenges

Caregiver Short-Term Respite: Patients admitted to provide respite for patients and families currently cared for at home.

Therapeutic / Recreational

Physical Therapy: Targets mobility, strength, balance, and pain reduction through exercise, manual techniques, and other modalities.

Occupational Therapy: Focuses on daily living skills, adaptive strategies, and environmental modifications to support independence.

Speech-Language Therapy: Addresses communication, cognition, and swallowing disorders, often critical after stroke or brain injury.

Psychosocial Support: Includes counseling and behavioral therapy to manage emotional challenges and promote mental well-being including complimentary alternative medicine

Recreational Therapy: Includes equine and rhythmic movement therapy, community integration transitions and exposures through community trips.

Educational

Special education services are made available through DESE's Special Education in Institutional Settings (SEIS) which provides a basic academic program and special education services aligned to each student's IEP goals and objectives in coordination with each student's school district.

(ii) Service Reductions

Service Reduction/Termination Type	Service Reduction/Termination Reason
No reductions. In the first week of June, Pappas had its unannounced full survey from Joint Commission (JC). Confirming the quality of the care we provide and the safety of our patients, the survey was successful. We received 11 findings, which were all "limited" in scope. The one high risk concern identified, relative to the visibility of a portable fire extinguisher, has been addressed. All remaining findings will be addressed by 8/3/2026. The JC highlighted a particular strength: "The organization has developed a highly specialized Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) program tailored to the unique developmental and psychosocial needs of rehab pediatric patients."	

(iii) Census at the hospital on January 1, 2025

On January 1, 2025, there were 39 patients admitted to the hospital, comprised of 37 long-term care patients and 2 care-giver respite patients. The department will provide these sub-categories of census on an ongoing basis to assist the Legislature further in its review.

(iv, v) Census, Admissions and Discharges per month

Month/ Year	Long Term Care		Care Giver Respite		Census*
	Admissions	Discharges	Admissions	Discharges	
Jan-25	0	2	1	3	35
Feb-25	0	2	3	2	34
Mar-25	0	1	2	1	34
Apr-25	0	0	4	5	33
May-25	0	2	3	3	31
Jun-25	0	3	5	2	31
Jul-25	1	2	0	4	26
Aug-25	0	1	3	2	26
Sep-25	0	1	3	4	24
Oct-25	0	0	3	2	25
Nov-25	0	0	3	3	25
Dec-25	1	0	4	2	28
Jan-26	0	2	2	4	24
Feb-26	0	1	4	5	22
Mar-26	0	1	3	3	21
Apr-26	0	2	2	2	19
May-26	0	0	3	2	20
Jun-26	0	3	2	1	18

*Last Day of the month

(vi) Employed Staff

	FTEs as of 6/16/26
DPH	
Administrative	14.94
Environmental Services	8
Licensed Practical Nurse	5.6
Maintenance Services	22
Management	5
Medical Services	5.4
Nursing Assistant	49.4
Quality Management	1
Recreational Services	5.4
Registered Nurse	30.7
Rehabilitation Services	15
Respiratory Services	1.8
Security Specialist	7
DPH Total FTEs	**171.24**
DESE	
Teachers	8.0
Specialist Teachers	3.0
Instructional Aides	3.0
Head Teachers	1.0
Program Coordinator	1.0
Director	1.0
DESE Total FTEs	**17.0**
Total FTEs	**188.24**