

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Department of Public Health

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**Maura T. Healey**  
Governor

**Kiame Mahaniah, MD, MBA**  
Secretary

**Kimberley Driscoll**  
Lieutenant Governor

**Robert Goldstein, MD, PhD**  
Commissioner

October 17, 2025


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,

  
Robert 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 aquatic 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
Aquatic Therapy	<p>Critical incident from July 9, 2025. The pool located at the Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital for Children leaked over 15,000 gallons of water over the prior week. A structural engineer assessed the pool and noted numerous wide- spread localized cracks that are allowing water leakage and have evidence of corrosion and deterioration that is occurring within the pool walls.</p> <p>Pool was fully drained on July 10. Repair options are currently being developed by a structural engineer. Pool is 15 years post life.</p> <p>10/3/25 Update:</p> <p>Given the structural deterioration, cost of repairs, and extensive building system deficiencies, DCAMM states bringing the pool back into service would be cost-prohibitive and is not recommended.</p> <p>A rough estimate provided by DCAMM for demolition and reconstruction is \$85M. Construction of the new pool is \$61M based on \$1,500/sf in 2025, escalated to 2028 and \$600/sf for demolition and site preparation is \$24M.</p>

**(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	Long Term Care		Care Giver Respite		Census*
	Admissions	Discharges	Admissions	Discharges	
Jan	0	2	1	3	35
Feb	0	2	3	2	34
Mar	0	1	2	1	34
April	0	0	4	5	33
May	0	2	3	3	31
June	0	3	5	2	31
July	1	2	0	4	26
Aug	0	1	3	2	26
Sept	0	1	3	4	24

\*Last Day of the month 2025

**(vi) Employed Staff**

	FTEs as of 9/23/25
<b>DPH</b>	
Administrative	17.34
Environmental Services	10.00
Licensed Practical Nurse	6.60
Maintenance Services	22.0
Management	3.0
Medical Services	7.4
Nursing Assistant	50.4
Quality Management	1.0
Recreational Services	8.4
Registered Nurse	33.90
Rehabilitation Services	15.65
Respiratory Services	2.8
Security Specialist	8.40
<b>DPH Total FTEs</b>	<b>186.89</b>
<b>DESE</b>	
Teachers	8.0
Specialist Teachers	3.0
Instructional Aides	3.0
Head Teachers	1.0
Program Coordinator	1.0
Director	1.0
<b>DESE Total FTEs</b>	<b>17.0</b>
<b>Total FTEs</b>	<b>203.89</b>