



**Department
of Health**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

December 12, 2017

CERTIFIED MAIL/RETURN RECEIPT

Allison Bellin, DSW
Beth Abraham Center
612 Allerton Avenue
Bronx, New York 10467

██████████
c/o Beth Abraham Center
612 Allerton Avenue
Bronx, New York 10467

RE: In the Matter of ██████████ – Discharge Appeal

Dear Parties:

Enclosed please find the Decision After Hearing in the above referenced matter. This Decision is final and binding.

The party who did not prevail in this hearing may appeal to the courts pursuant to the provisions of Article 78 of the Civil Practice Law and Rules. If the party wishes to appeal this decision it may seek advice from the legal resources available (e.g. their attorney, the County Bar Association, Legal Aid, etc.). Such an appeal must be commenced within four (4) months from the date of this Decision.

Sincerely,

James F. Horan
Chief Administrative Law Judge
Bureau of Adjudication

JFH: ISM
Enclosure

STATE OF NEW YORK : DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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In the Matter of an Appeal, pursuant to :
10 NYCRR § 415.3, by :
 :
 [REDACTED] :
 :
 Appellant, :
 :
 from a determination by : DECISION
 :
 BETH ABRAHAM HEALTH CENTER, :
 :
 Respondent, :
 :
 to discharge him from a residential health :
 care facility. :
-----X

Beth Abraham Health Center ("Facility") issued a Notice of Transfer/Discharge, dated [REDACTED] [REDACTED], 2017, to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] ("Resident"). The Resident appealed the Facility's proposed discharge. On December 8, 2017, a hearing was held before WILLIAM J. LYNCH, ESQ., ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE.

The hearing was held in accordance with the Public Health Law of the State of New York; Part 415 in Volume 10 of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York ("NYCRR"); Part 483 of the United States Code of Federal Regulations ("CFR"); the New York State Administrative Procedure Act ("SAPA"); and 10 NYCRR Part 51.

Evidence was received and witnesses were examined. An audio recording of the proceeding was made. The hearing was held at the

Facility located at 612 Allerton Avenue, Bronx, New York. The following individuals were present for the hearing: [REDACTED], Resident; Allison Bellin, Director of Social Work; Jose Santos, Social Worker; and Hyacinth Payne, R.N., Unit Nurse.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

The Facility issued a determination proposing to discharge the Resident effective [REDACTED], 2017. The stated reason for the discharge was that the Resident's health had improved sufficiently so that he no longer required the services provided by a skilled nursing facility. The proposed discharge location was the [REDACTED] Shelter, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. The Resident filed a timely request for an appeal of the discharge decision and has remained in the Facility pending this determination.

STATEMENT OF ISSUES

The issues to be determined in this proceeding are whether the Facility has established a basis which permits the Resident's discharge from the Facility and whether the proposed discharge plan is appropriate. The Facility has the burden of proving its

case by substantial evidence (10 NYCRR § 415.3[h][2][iii], SAPA § 306[1]).

FINDINGS OF FACT

The following Findings of Fact were made after a review of the entire record in this matter. Citations in parentheses refer to testimony or exhibits. These citations represent evidence found persuasive in arriving at a particular finding. Conflicting evidence, if any, was considered and rejected in favor of the cited evidence.

1. The Resident is a [REDACTED]-year-old male who was admitted to the Facility on [REDACTED] [REDACTED], 2017, for short term rehabilitation following a hospitalization. (Facility 4; Recording @ 4:15).

2. The Resident completed a program of physical therapy on [REDACTED] 2017. Although he has [REDACTED] from a history of a [REDACTED] [REDACTED] years ago, he ambulates independently with a [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and can perform all activities of daily living. (Facility Ex. 4; Recording @ 18:45).

3. The Resident can receive this same care as an outpatient and can manage his own medications. (Recording @ 12:50).

4. The Facility's interdisciplinary care team determined that the Resident no longer required skilled nursing services and could safely be discharged. (Facility Ex. 3; Recording @ 24:00).

5. The Resident's attending physician determined that the Resident was clinically stable to be discharged to the Shelter. (Facility Ex. 2).

6. On [REDACTED], 2017, the Facility issued a discharge notice to the Resident which proposed discharge to [REDACTED] Shelter in [REDACTED] (Facility Ex. 1).

ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS

A resident may only be discharged pursuant to specific provisions of the Department of Health Rules and Regulations (10 NYCRR 415.3[h][1]). The Facility alleged that the Resident's discharge is permissible pursuant to 10 NYCRR 415(h)(1)(i)(a)(2), which states:

The transfer or discharge is appropriate because the resident's health has improved sufficiently so the resident no longer needs the services provided by the facility.

The Facility established through testimony and documents that there is no reason for the Resident to remain in a skilled nursing facility and that the Resident's medical conditions can be managed on an outpatient basis. After completing a program of

rehabilitation, the Resident can ambulate with a [REDACTED] and independently perform all activities of daily living.

The Resident stated that he had a [REDACTED] and spent some time in a nursing home when he was discharged from the hospital [REDACTED] years ago, but the nursing home did not do enough rehabilitation for him so he has [REDACTED]. During the past [REDACTED] years, the Resident explained that he lived with a [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] and then moved to [REDACTED]. He stated that he could not live with any family members or friends in [REDACTED] so he stayed at the [REDACTED] Shelter. The Resident now wants to remain in the Facility to receive additional rehabilitation services that he did not receive at the time of his [REDACTED] years ago.

Based upon the evidence produced at the hearing, I find that the Resident no longer needs to reside in a skilled nursing facility and that he can obtain any required follow-up medical care on an outpatient basis while living at [REDACTED] Shelter. The Facility provided sufficient rehabilitation to restore the Resident so he can again ambulate with a [REDACTED] and perform his activities of daily living which was the goal set for his stay at the Facility. The Facility's discharge plan includes providing medications, follow-up instructions and transportation.

DECISION AND ORDER

1. The Facility is authorized to discharge the Resident in accordance with its discharge plan.

2. This decision may be appealed to a court of competent jurisdiction pursuant to Article 78 of the New York Civil Practice Law and Rules (CPLR).

DATED: Albany, New York
December 12, 2017



WILLIAM J. LYNCH
Administrative Law Judge