

Bartlett Regional Hospital

To: CBJ Public Works and Facilities Committee
From: Sam Muse, CFO Bartlett Regional Hospital
Subject: ED Addition Project Update

April 21, 2023

◆ ISSUE

At the February 28th, 2023, Bartlett Regional Hospital Board of Directors meeting, the board approved a motion “postponing the currently envisioned ED addition indefinitely and request staff to, with all due haste, re-evaluate and come back with a redesigned, skinnier plan that focuses on these safety issues for us to consider going forward.”

◆ BACKGROUND

In the last several years, Bartlett Hospital has identified potential patient and staff safety concerns within the Emergency Department. To address these concerns, Bartlett developed a project that would change the flow of patient care, create improvements to access for patients and emergency responders, add and convert specialty patient rooms (including rooms configured specifically for Behavioral Health patients), overhaul airflow systems and create negative-pressure triage and treatment spaces, and strategically relocate staff workstations, among other improvements.

Through the Assembly, Bartlett moved this project forward, with the scope detailed above, at a cost of \$17,000,000. In March of 2022, Bartlett sold \$21M in bonds, \$12M of which were appropriated to this project. To complete the project, as planned, it would have been necessary for Bartlett to appropriate an additional \$5,000,000 in unrestricted cash to the project.

Considering Bartlett’s current financial situation, Bartlett’s Board of Directors made a difficult decision to delay the project, instructing Senior Leadership to identify the top safety concerns, prioritize and attempt to secure partner funding to help aid in the eventual completion of a project.

◆ CURRENT STATUS

The Hospital Board Quality Committee directed Bartlett leadership to reevaluate and prioritize the safety concerns within the Emergency Department. Bartlett leadership has engaged stakeholders, completing a survey inquiring about both employee and patient safety within the Emergency Department and how the hospital might best address those concerns. Furthermore, the Quality Director and team are reevaluating safety data/measures within the Emergency Department to help round out our understanding of the most pressing safety concerns.

After the deappropriating ordinance was approved by the board, there are \$3M in bond proceeds still designated to the project. Additionally, Bartlett has applied for several large capital grants, in hopes of leveraging both State and Federal partners to help us complete this important project. Bartlett made a request through Senator Murkowski’s office, seeking capital HRSA funds to help close the funding gap. If awarded, we estimate that the funding would be about \$5M. Bartlett has also applied to the Denali

Commission's infrastructure fund. Awards through this fund can be as high as \$2M, though the typical award is less.

As Bartlett reestablishes the priorities around safety, solutions to address them and funding sources, we will continue to work with CBJ Engineering and Architects Alaska to shape a redesigned project that we believe will be of great value to our employees, patients, and the community.