For Immediate Release

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Brattleboro Retreat and CMS to Enter into Systems Improvement Agreement. Provider Contract to Remain in Place.

BRATTLEBORO, VT (October 3, 2014)—Brattleboro Retreat Vice President for Strategy and Development Konstantin von Krusenstiern issued the following statement today regarding the Vermont Division of Licensing and Protection re-survey of the Retreat Sept. 29 to Oct. 1, 2014.

“The Vermont Division of Licensing and Protection, acting on behalf of the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, conducted an unannounced but planned re-survey of the Brattleboro Retreat from Sept. 29 through Oct. 1. The re-survey was a follow-up to surveys conducted at the Retreat in June and August of this year for which a notice of termination of the provider agreement had been issued for Oct. 6, 2014.

“Although the Retreat has not received a written summary of the survey, we believe from the exit conference that the Retreat remains out of compliance with one or more conditions of participation under the provider agreement.

“With assistance from the Shumlin Administration, the Retreat and CMS have agreed to enter into a Systems Improvement Agreement, which will provide more time to make sustainable improvements in quality assurance, patient care, and governance. The details of this agreement are currently in development, and once completed will be shared with all appropriate parties.

“As a result of this development the Brattleboro Retreat’s provider agreement with CMS will remain in effect.

“In addition to extending the timeline to gain full compliance, the Systems Improvement Agreement entails contracting with an independent expert approved by CMS to assist the hospital in assessing compliance with all relevant conditions of participation, developing a plan to address required improvements, providing support for plan implementation and preparing the Retreat for future surveys.

“In addition to the governor's office, the Retreat has been in contact with the Department of Mental Health, the Agency of Human Services, and key legislative leaders to apprise them of the situation and seek their assistance.

“Senior management and the board of directors of the Brattleboro Retreat see these developments as a positive, collaborative step forward toward meeting the common goals of quality care and accountability.”

The Brattleboro Retreat, founded in 1834, is a not-for-profit, regional specialty psychiatric hospital and addictions treatment center, providing a full range of diagnostic, therapeutic and rehabilitation services for individuals of all ages and their families. Recognized as a national leader in the treatment mental illness and addiction, the Brattleboro Retreat offers a high quality, individualized, comprehensive continuum of care including inpatient, partial hospitalization, residential and outpatient treatment.