March 2, 2023

Representative James Tipton
Kentucky General Assembly
Frankfort, Ky. 40601

Rep. Tipton,

Thank you for your request regarding the provision of health care at the Transform Clinic at UK HealthCare. We appreciate your interest in finding out more information about these important services.

To that end, the following outlines the medical services provided by Transform Health, which is a clinical unit that is part of UK HealthCare's Department of Community and Family Medicine.

It is important to note that the services provided at Transform Health are in accordance with national guidelines for standards of care as well as the evidence and research-based practices that are commonly accepted for the provision of care for both minor and adult patients.

More specifically, the vast majority of services provided to minor patients fall into two categories:

- **Primary care services**: This includes services that are part of a routine check-up, including preventative screenings, blood work and birth control. These are services that any patient would get at a primary care practice, but here they are given in a clinical setting specifically designed to improve health outcomes for this patient population. That includes Transform Health providers supporting their transition by using the patient's preferred pronouns, name, etc.

  Like any primary care practice treating minors, these treatments are only given with explicit parental/guardian consent.

- **Mental health services**: Many minor patients in this context are dealing with severe trauma and stress. Accordingly, UK HealthCare Family and Community Medicine has several therapists on staff with experience and expertise helping the LGBTQ+ population, so patients can come to the clinic for therapy; providers can also prescribe mental health medications.

  Again, these treatments are rendered only with parental/guardian consent. Providers can also provide information and resources on other facilities that offer mental health care in an appropriate setting as needed.

  Transform Health does not offer puberty blockers for minors. As a holistic part of primary care, the clinic does provide cross-sex hormone therapy to older adolescents (14 and older) who want it, after careful medical evaluation and discussion with the patient and parent/guardian, **and only with informed consent given by the parent/guardian.**

I would also like to offer some additional context and background regarding the provision of care at the Transform clinic:

- **Transform Health does not perform genital gender reassignment surgery on minors.** Indeed, these types of surgeries on minors are not considered best practice in the United States and are performed in this country very rarely.

- Transform Health has, in recent years, performed a small number of non-genital gender reassignment surgeries on minors, such as mastectomies for older adolescents. Like any surgery at UK HealthCare, these are performed only after careful medical evaluation, discussion and the consent of patients/guardians.

- In the case of minor patients who may consider elective surgeries – regardless of the reason why the surgery is sought – several factors are considered in the decision to undergo a procedure. These include, but are not limited to, the type of surgery, the growth and maturity level of the minor, parental/guardian feedback and informed consent.

- Moreover, evidence-based standards of care for minors are considered in the treatment rendered by appropriately trained and experienced health care providers.

I hope this communication provides you and your colleagues with the details you need about the clinic and the provision of care we provide to patients from across the Commonwealth.

I would be happy to provide more detail or answer additional clarifying questions. Please let our representative, Bart Hardin, know if you have further questions, and he can arrange follow-up communication.

Again, thank you for your interest in these important issues.

Sincerely,

Jay S Grider DO, PhD, MBA
Chief Physician Executive