

Dorminy Medical Center (DMC) needs your help. DMC would like to add a geriatric psychiatric (Geri-psych) unit to our service line. This 12-bed unit will service Fitzgerald and surrounding communities for our population over age 65 with dementia, Alzheimer's, and substance abuse diagnoses.

Why do we need a Geri-psych unit in Fitzgerald? Because the closest unit is 37 miles away, and many senior citizens are unable to travel to get the care they need. This lack of available care often leaves the patient struggling without proper treatment. Admission to an out-of-town service can disrupt the continuity of the patient's local medical and psychiatric care. In addition, an out-of-area admission becomes a difficult hardship for both the patient and their family.

However, in order to offer this service, DMC must apply for a certificate of need (CON) from the State. If the CON is not granted, we will be unable to provide this vital service. This is where you come in: DMC is requesting letters from each of you voicing your support of a Geri psych unit at our facility.

I hope you agree that this service will be a true benefit to our geriatric population and their families, and I would like to request that you submit your letter of support to me by Friday, March 4. Please provide the letter on your letterhead and sign it. I have attached a template letter as well as "talking points" to help you to get started. My contact information is listed below. Please do not hesitate to contact me for additional information. I would like to thank you in advance for your support of this very important service to our community.

Sincerely,

Stacie

Stacie Mims, RN,MHA

Chief Operation Officer/ Chief Nursing Officer

Dorminy Medical Center

200 Perry House Rd.

Fitzgerald, Georgia

229-424-7258 Office

229-424-7285 Fax