

Skokie Hospital

Kristen Murtos
President

9600 Gross Point Road
Skokie, IL 60076
www.northshore.org

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kmurtos@northshore.org

May 13, 2010

SENT VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Michael Constantino
Supervisor, Project Review
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Project 10-008
Skokie Hospital Discontinuation of AMI Service
Public hearing Written Comment

Dear Mr. Constantino:

The purpose of this letter, which is being submitted as written comment to the above-referenced project, is to outline how NorthShore University Health System has developed an integrated AMI delivery program that addresses the AMI needs of the communities served by the System's four hospitals.

Project 10-008, to be heard by the State Board at its June meeting provides for the consolidation of the System's two adult AMI inpatient programs into a single, expanded program on the Evanston Hospital campus, while continuing to provide adolescent AMI inpatient services through a dedicated unit at Highland Park Hospital. The consolidation of the adult programs at Evanston Hospital provides for a natural synergy with the System's outpatient AMI and substance abuse programs, which are located on the Evanston campus. Psychiatric evaluation capabilities, as well as protocols for the transfer of patients to the appropriate inpatient unit are provided in each of the System's Emergency Departments.

The System-wide plan allows for the placement of adolescents in a small--12-bed--unit, as advocated at the most recent IHFSRB meeting; and the combining of the two existing adult units provides a sufficient number of patients to support expanded clinical capabilities in an integrated program servicing adult patients.

Even with the consolidation of the System's two adult AMI programs, sufficient capacity is available at Evanston Hospital and at other nearby hospitals to easily accommodate Skokie Hospital's entire AMI caseload. In 2009, only 693 AMI patients were admitted to Skokie Hospital. Documentation, in the form of letters from area providers has been provided, indicating an ability and willingness to admit an additional 840-870 patients, annually. As a result, there will be no compromise to accessibility.

In addition, and of particular importance to Skokie Hospital, the relocating of the hospital's adult AMI program will allow for the demolition of a freestanding building on the campus, that is currently housing the AMI program. That demolition, consistent with the hospital's Master Site Plan which resulted in the State Board's approval of the hospital's \$129.5M modernization

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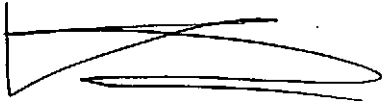
HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

program (Project 09-025) in December 2009 is necessary to support the campus development plan. As presented and approved in Project 09-025 the Skokie Hospital campus modernization program was the result of a master facility planning process that identified and addressed the current and future needs of the surrounding community. The need for primary care and specialty physician services in a convenient and accessible setting supported and integrated with diagnostic and therapeutic capabilities was a key finding of that analysis. Our ability to move forward with that approved plan is critical to meet the current and future needs of our aging community.

Last, enclosed are eight letters of support for the project that have not previously been provided to the State Agency. NorthShore University HealthSystem is committed to meeting the needs of the communities it serves and works collaboratively with many local agencies to fulfill this mission. The attached letters give an indication of that history of collaboration and support our ongoing efforts to best meet the needs of the communities we serve.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristen Murtos', written over a horizontal line.

Kristen Murtos
President
Skokie Hospital

KM/ks
Enclosures



COPY

Exec'd. 4/12/10

Health Department and
Community Health Center

Irene T. Pierce, MSN
Executive Director

Administrative Services
3010 Grand Avenue
Waukegan, Illinois 60085-2399
Phone 847 377 8000
Fax 847 360 3656

March 26, 2010

Kristen Murtos
President, Skokie Hospital
NorthShore University HealthSystem
9669 Gross Point Road
Skokie, IL 60076

Dear Ms. Murtos:

I have been made aware that NorthShore University HealthSystem is reconfiguring its adult psychiatric services to update and focus them at Evanston Hospital. This will include the opening of a new all private room unit at Evanston Hospital and the closing of an older unit at Skokie Hospital.

NorthShore's relationship with Lake County Health Department is managed on system-wide basis with our patients being cared for at both Highland Park and Evanston hospitals depending on the clinical need. Adult patients evaluated in the Highland Park Hospital Emergency Department are routinely transferred to Evanston Hospital without issue. The opening of the new and larger inpatient unit should be well received by the community and will increase the number of beds available to Lake County residents including those who are Medicaid recipients or require charity care. The synergy that will result from having the consolidated inpatient psychiatric unit on the same campus as NorthShore's partial hospitalization and substance abuse programs will improve care coordination.

NorthShore has traditionally been a major provider of both Medicaid and charity care for the residents of the northern suburbs including Lake County, and I fully anticipate that this practice will continue. In 2009, the Be Well Lake County program was launched as a collaboration between Lake County Health Department and Northshore to educate and treat North Chicago residents with diabetes.

Sincerely,

Irene Pierce
Executive Director

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

March 24, 2010

ywca evanston/north shore
1215 Church Street | Evanston, Illinois 60201
(847) 864-8445 | Fax (847) 864-8498
www.ywca.org/evanston

mary lou's place
a domestic violence shelter for women and their children
Toll Free | (877) 718-1868

Ms. Kristen Murtos
President
Skokie Hospital/NorthShore University HealthSystem
9600 Gross Point Road
Skokie, IL 60076

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Karen Singer

Dear Ms. Murtos,

I appreciate you contacting me to inform me about NorthShore University HealthSystem's plans to consolidate its psychiatric services at Skokie Hospital and Evanston Hospital.

With Skokie and Evanston Hospitals only being several miles apart, combining services makes sense, and will not compromise access to care. The expansion of psychiatric services at Evanston Hospital will help to continue to meet the mental health needs in the area. I am not aware of any circumstances in our community where individuals who are appropriate for placement in an in-patient acute mental illness unit have not been placed. From our perspective, NorthShore has a consistent history of providing necessary placement, regardless of payor source.

We are appreciative of that role that you have played and we look forward to our future partnership in serving the community. I am confident that your dedicated staff will continue to provide excellent patient care as you move forward with this restructuring plan based on your desire to provide outstanding service.

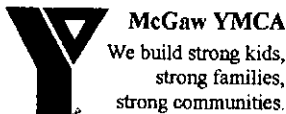
In addition, I was pleased to learn that the new unit will focus on adult psychiatry, and be designed consistent with the best practices models for contemporary acute psychiatric care. NorthShore University HealthSystem is a valued and long term partner that supports the mission of YWCA Evanston/North Shore. The expansion of the organization's psychiatric services demonstrates NorthShore's commitment to providing programs of community benefit—especially focusing on meeting the needs of the medically underserved community.

Again, thank you for keeping us informed about your plans.

Sincerely,


Karen Singer

Executive Director, YWCA Evanston/North Shore



2009 - 2010
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William F. Geiger

McGaw YMCA is a
tax-exempt charitable
organization.

March 29, 2010

Ms. Kristen Murtos, President
Skokie Hospital
9600 Gross Point Road
Skokie, IL 60076

Dear Ms. Murtos,

Thank you for making me aware of NorthShore University HealthSystem's application to the State of Illinois as it relates to the consolidation of your organization's Skokie and Evanston Hospitals psychiatric services.

Although the McGaw YMCA is not an expert in the area of mental health, we fully appreciate the long standing and dedicated partner that NorthShore and Evanston Hospital is to the YMCA—and to the broader Evanston community. I know NorthShore to have an exemplary track record in admitting patients with limited financial resources or who rely on Medicaid as a payor. Specifically, NorthShore has been an important resource to our housing program and partner supporting our 172-bed SRO serving low- and very low-income men.

The McGaw YMCA and NorthShore have a similar mission of enhancing individual health. Your organization demonstrates that by providing world-class health care to its patients. NorthShore's commitment is further demonstrated through the many partnerships with our organization—particularly those that focus on the medically underserved population.

With NorthShore's acquisition of Skokie Hospital, a consolidation of these services is certainly a prudent approach. It is apparent that the organization's decision was made in the best interests to further enhance patient care. The north suburban communities that are served both by NorthShore and McGaw YMCA are diverse in many ways, ranging from ethnicity to religion to income. NorthShore has always strived to provide services that are accessible and address the needs of our communities, and I am confident that this practice will continue.

Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to be supportive of NorthShore's application.

Sincerely,

William F. Geiger
President and CEO

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1000 Grove Street
Evanston, IL 60201
P 847.475.7400
F 847.475.7959

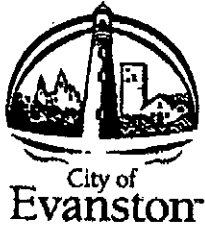
Children's Center
1420 Maple Avenue
Evanston, IL 60201
P 847.475.8580
F 847.733.2562

Foster Reading Center
2010 Dewey Avenue
Evanston, IL 60201
P 847.864.3360
F 847.475.7959

Camp Echo
3782 S. Triangle Trail
Fremont, MI 49412
P 231.924.0829
F 231.924.0061

www.McGawYMCA.org





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Elizabeth B. Tisdahl
Mayor

March 24, 2010

Ms. Kristen Murtos
President
NorthShore University HealthSystem
Skokie Hospital
9600 Gross Point Road
Skokie, IL 60076

Dear Ms. Murtos:

I am writing to offer my support of NorthShore University HealthSystem's (NorthShore) proposed new psychiatric unit at Evanston Hospital. As Mayor of Evanston, I am particularly pleased to know NorthShore's proposed facility will improve upon and offer a wider range of services so that our residents can receive top-notch mental health care right here in our own backyard. This consolidation of Skokie and Evanston Hospitals' units into a new single facility will meet the needs of all our neighboring communities at a time when the numbers of area adult and geriatric patients burdened with mental illness is growing.

As you know, NorthShore is a major provider of both Medicaid and charity care to our residents. As a long-standing Evanston resident of 37 years, I can vouch for NorthShore's involvement as an exemplary leader, both in pioneering healthcare services for our region and as an actively engaged organization that supports our neighborhood organizations and is always there to assisting the underserved with their health care needs. I have every confidence that NorthShore will continue to demonstrate leadership in providing care to all of our area residents while prioritizing the importance of exceptional clinical care.

I support this move to a state-of-the art facility from a practical standpoint as well. As the two hospitals are only three miles apart, with inpatient utilization down at Skokie's unit, it is wise to avoid a costly duplication of services. It is also helpful that the Evanston Hospital location for the consolidated facility is on the same campus as NorthShore's Doreen E. Chapman Chemical Dependency Program, which will better serve the high percentage of patients who are dually-diagnosed. With residents of the north suburban communities routinely traveling from one suburb to another for many services, including health care, I do not believe that the consolidation of the programs will hinder accessibility to care; particularly with the large number of community agencies that maintain relationships with both Evanston Hospital and Skokie Hospital.

This expanded, state-of-the art facility will be well received and utilized in our community. Please accept my enthusiastic support to NorthShore University HealthSystem's application for an inpatient psychiatric unit at Evanston Hospital.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth B. Tisdahl
Mayor

VILLAGE PRESIDENT
Gerald C. Turry

VILLAGE CLERK
Beryl Herman

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR
Timothy C. Wilberg



TRUSTEES
Lawrence A. Elster
Lawrence M. Froman
Thomas Heidtke
Nicholas Leftakes
Jesal B. Patel, Sr.
Renee Sprogis-Marohn

March 23, 2010

Ms. Kristen Murtos
President
Skokie Hospital
NorthShore University HealthSystem
9600 Gross Point Road
Skokie, IL 60076

Dear Ms. Murtos:

I want to thank you for sharing NorthShore's plan to consolidate psychiatric services that currently exist at Skokie and Evanston Hospitals.

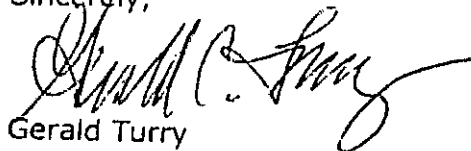
I was pleased to support NorthShore's acquisition of Rush North Shore Medical Center. In the past year since the acquisition, it is clearly evident that the organization is living up to its commitment of bringing high quality health care to the area. A consolidation of psychiatric services at Evanston Hospital is a continuation of that commitment, since it will insure that the very best in in-patient programs and services will be available to our residents who need mental illness care.

Residents from Lincolnwood and the surrounding communities will benefit from the newly expanded unit at Evanston Hospital that will provide excellent individual, inpatient treatment for adult and geriatric patients. Our residents have traditionally used both Evanston Hospital and Skokie Hospital, and the consolidating of the psychiatric programs on the Evanston Hospital campus will not result in any difficulties.

The citizens of Lincolnwood are fortunate to have NorthShore as a provider of health care services. This is particularly true for our citizens that are on Medicaid and or need financial assistance for their care. It has been my experience that the NorthShore Hospitals have been a leader in providing care to those components of our population.

I am pleased to offer my support to NorthShore University HealthSystem in its application to the State of Illinois to consolidate its psychiatric services to Evanston Hospital.

Sincerely,


Gerald Turry
Mayor



TREE CITY USA

VILLAGE OFFICES • 6900 N. LINCOLN AVENUE • LINCOLNWOOD, ILLINOIS 60712 • 847-673-1540 • FAX: 847-673-9382
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VILLAGE OF WILMETTE

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OFFICE OF THE
VILLAGE PRESIDENT

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FAX (847) 853-7700
TDD (847) 853-7634

March 29, 2010

Ms. Kristen Murtos
President
NorthShore University HealthSystem
Skokie Hospital
9600 Gross Point Road
Skokie, IL 60076

Dear Ms. Murtos:

I am writing you to express my full support for NorthShore University HealthSystem's plan to consolidate its Skokie and Evanston Hospital psychiatric units.

Residents of Wilmette and other North Shore communities have traditionally used both of these hospitals. As a result, I do not believe that the closing of the psychiatric unit at Skokie Hospital will materially decrease access to psychiatric services for our residents or those of neighboring communities.

I recognize that during these challenging economic times, organizations--whether they be a local government like Wilmette or a large health care system like NorthShore--must continually explore the best way to continue to provide quality services while also meeting the needs of the community. I support your organization in its desire to consolidate these two psychiatric units while ensuring that this access is still available to our residents.

Please keep me up to date as you move forward in your consolidation of the two units and your expansion of psychiatric services at Evanston Hospital.

Very truly yours,

Christopher S. Canning
Village of Wilmette

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820 DAVIS STREET
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EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201
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FAX (847) 492-1202



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SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
(217) 782-2119
FAX (217) 782-0715

ILLINOIS STATE SENATE
JEFFREY M. SCHOENBERG
Assistant Majority Leader
State Senator • 9th District

March 29, 2010

Ms. Kristen Murtos
President
NorthShore University HealthSystem/Skokie Hospital
9600 Gross Point Road
Skokie, IL 60076

Dear Ms. Murtos,

I am writing in support of NorthShore University HealthSystem's proposal to consolidate its adult psychiatric units through the replacement and expanding of the unit at Evanston Hospital. The consolidation of Skokie and Evanston Hospitals' units into a new single facility will improve the range of psychiatric health services offered to our community and continue to address and meet the ever growing needs of area adult and geriatric patients burdened with mental illness. Because of the two hospitals are located so close to one another, this consolidation will not cause any access-related hardships for area residents.

NorthShore has traditionally been a major provider of both Medicaid and charity care to our residents. This proposed unit serves to improve the regional care offered to our communities in the best way possible. As a long-standing resident of the North Shore, I have personally witnessed NorthShore's involvement as an exemplary neighbor and leader. A pioneering stronghold in our community, NorthShore has always been actively engaged in providing health care for all of its partners, whether that be beneficial support to neighborhood organizations or assisting the underserved with their health care needs.

I am pleased to support NorthShore University HealthSystem's application for an inpatient psychiatric unit at Evanston Hospital. I believe a new and expanded inpatient facility will be well-received and a welcome attribute to our North Shore community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Schoenberg".

Jeff Schoenberg
Assistant Majority Leader – Illinois State Senate

senator@jschoenberg.org
website: www.jschoenberg.org