

FOLEY & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Charles H. Foley, MHSA
cfoley@foleyandassociates.com

John P. Kniery
jkniery@foleyandassociates.com

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OCT 25 2017

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

October 25, 2017

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

**Re: Project No. 17-048, Lake Behavioral
Hospital**

Dear Ms. Avery:

Please accept the enclosed support letter from Michael G. Nerheim, State's Attorney, Lake County for the above referenced project.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



John P. Kniery
Health Care Consultant

JPK/kah

Enclosure





OFFICE OF THE
STATE'S ATTORNEY
LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

MICHAEL G. NERHEIM
STATE'S ATTORNEY

October 25, 2017

Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, Illinois 62761

RE: Certificate of Need Application for Vista Medical Center West

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing this letter in support of the certificate of need application by US HealthVest to expand Vista Medical Center West to a 100-bed behavioral hospital.

The expansion of services in Lake County will address the shortage of inpatient beds to care for the residents of Waukegan and Lake County. There is an unmet need for specialized psychiatric services which US HealthVest has proven they can provide. I am supporting this application because access to mental health treatment remains one of our top issues in Lake County. As Lake County's Chief Law Enforcement official, I see first-hand how many people with mental illness end up in the criminal justice system due to a lack of mental health treatment facilities in our community. We currently have several different initiatives underway to address this pressing issue. The success of these programs hinges on access to care. Lake County also has a robust Specialty Court program which includes a Drug Court, Mental Health Court, and Veteran's Court. We have had to go out of county for placement due to a shortage of psychiatric beds here. Another major issue in Lake County is transportation. Many of the mental health services are located in the Southeastern corner of our community, while much need exists in the Central and Northern portions of our county. Having these services in Waukegan, the largest city in Lake County, will substantially improve this problem.

I urge you to support the approval of this certificate of need application for Vista Medical Center West. There is a great need in the area to expand behavioral health services.

Thank you for your assistance in providing access to care in Lake County.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL G. NERHEIM
STATE'S ATTORNEY

**Lake County
Building**
18 N. County St.
Waukegan, IL 60085
(847) 377-3000
Fax (847) 360-1538

Child Support

18 N. County St.
Waukegan, IL 60085
(847) 377-3131
Fax (847) 360-1097

**Children's Advocacy
Center**

123 N. O'Plaine Rd.
Gurnee, IL 60031
(847) 377-3155
Fax (847) 360-6850

Civil Division

18 N. County St.
Waukegan, IL 60085
(847) 377-3050
Fax (847) 360-0661

**Felony Division
Drug Division
Cyber Division
Special Investigations**

18 N. County St.
Waukegan, IL 60085
(847) 377-3000
Fax (847) 360-1538

Felony Review Division
Robert H. Babcox
Justice Center

20 S. County St.
Waukegan, IL 60085
(847) 377-3025
Fax (847) 263-6179

Juvenile Trial Division
Robert W. Depke
Juvenile Justice Complex

24647 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Vernon Hills, IL 60061
(847) 377-7850
Fax (847) 634-8831

**Misdemeanor Division
Traffic Division**

18 N. County St.
Waukegan, IL 60085
(847) 377-3000
Fax (847) 625-7129