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HAND DELIVERED

November 20, 2017

RECEIVED

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

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

Please accept the enclosed support letter from City of Waukegan Chamber of Commerce 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





November 16th, 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,

As a employee of Lake County I find it of great importance to express my support of the expansion of psychiatric beds at Vista Medical Center West. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death among residents of Lake County and while we have a 46-bed psychiatric unit at Vista Medical Center West we cannot seem to provide the crisis stabilization needed to help residents of all ages who live in Lake County.

A lack of access to psychiatric beds can lead to an increase in the amount of patient readmissions and crowded emergency rooms. Patients often end up homeless or incarcerated when they do not have the needed access to inpatient treatment facilities. As someone with close family members, as well as friends, that have required inpatient care, I personally understand the urgency and imperativeness of ample access to psychiatric care.

I am delighted to hear of the expansion of Vista Medical Center West to 146 beds and I support the Certificate of Need application to increase the number of psychiatric beds in our community.

Sincerely,

Dawn Simerly
Executive Director
City of Waukegan Chamber of Commerce

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