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HAND DELIVERED

November 20, 2017

RECEIVED

NOV 20 2017

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 Care Navigators, Inc. 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





CARE NAVIGATORS, INC.

PO Box 7814

Algonquin, IL 60102

YOUR PERSONAL HEALTHCARE ADVOCATE

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

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 146-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 US HealthVest has proven they can provide. I am supporting this application because the need for mental health services in Lake county is present, but available inpatient care is lacking. I have learned through working with patients of all varieties that mental health is just as vital to treat as physical illnesses.

Patients that need mental health services have no choice but to travel to distant hospitals which only adds financial burdens for medical transportation, stress on family members supporting the patient at a distance, regular physicians not being able to see their patient at such distance, and a lack of familiarity with the area around a hospital which is a known stressor for those with complex mental illnesses.

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,

Dan Medina BA, NCG, CDP

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