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November 21, 2017

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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 Karilyn Parrott and Marcia Bernstein 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 15, 2017

Courtney Avery, Administrator
IL Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson St.
Springfield, IL 62761

re: Certificate of Need Application for Vista Medical Center West

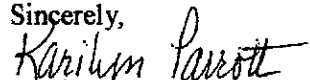
Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing in support of the Need Application by US HealthVest to expand Vista Medical Center West to a 100-bed behavioral hospital in Waukegan.

My brother lived with schizophrenia and depression for over 50 years. I have admitted him to hospitals in McHenry, Kane and Lake County. He was brought by ambulance from IMDs and hospitals. In each case, the long hours of waiting in the ER were stressful. By the time he finally got to a room on the behavioral floor, it was night and I was miles from home. Limited visiting hours made it difficult for me to balance work with the necessary travel time. My suicidal brother was abruptly discharged (Fridays or before a holiday) with only a few hours' notice and long before his symptoms had subsided. There was no follow-up. As family and durable power of attorney for health, I was seldom consulted. Phone calls were not returned. The transition back to the IMD was difficult. Sadly, the cycle repeated until he died earlier this year.

I am deeply concerned that all persons with mental illness receive quality care close to home. I toured the Chicago Behavioral Hospital in Des Plaines, managed by USHealthVest. I asked questions. I am satisfied that this organization can provide what our community so urgently needs. Please support the approval of this application process.

Sincerely,


Karilyn Parrott

member of Lake County United and NAMI

November 18, 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 resident of Lake County it is important that I let you know I support the expansion of psychiatric beds at Vista Medical Center West. For the last three years I have been a community volunteer actively working to divert the mentally ill from the criminal justice system. When law enforcement gets a behavioral health crisis dispatch, officers have nowhere to take the individual other than an emergency room or the jail. Neither of these places is appropriate. What are needed is a crisis stabilization unit as well as in-patient and outpatient services, the whole continuum of care. I have been informed US HealthVest will expand these critical services in our community.

The majority of the Lake County Jail high utilizers have behavioral health diagnoses. Jails are for criminal offenses. They are not intended to be behavioral health treatment facilities. This represents a terrible misuse of taxpayer dollars. There are almost no in-patient psychiatric beds in Lake County, so there is usually no bed available if someone is taken to an ER. After ER intake, the individual is often simply released back to the street.

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 access to more psychiatric beds in my community.

Sincerely,



Marcia Bernstein
874 Judson Avenue
Highland Park, IL 60035