

FOLEY & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Charles H. Foley, MHSA
cfoley@foleyandassociates.com

John P. Kniery
jkniery@foleyandassociates.com

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November 28, 2017

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HEALTH
SERVICES

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

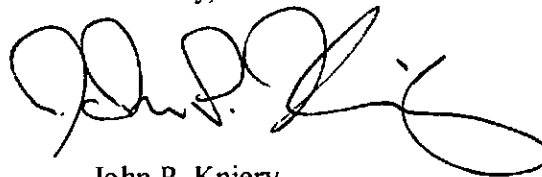
**Re: Project No. 17-048, Lake Behavioral
Hospital**

Dear Ms. Avery:

Please accept the enclosed support letter from Leanna Fifhouse 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(s)



Office: 217/544-1551

Health Care Consulting
133 South Fourth Street, Suite 200 • Springfield, IL 62701
foley@foleyandassociates.com

Fax: 217/544-3615

November 21, 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,

There is a critical need for more psychiatric services in Lake County and I support the application to expand the psychiatric services at Vista Medical Center West.

In my experience, we spent hours waiting in a hospital emergency room for a room to be available for our family member. The choices at that time were Highland Park Hospital or a hospital in the far southwest suburbs. If it had turned out to be the far away hospital, we would have had to take significant time off work, in order, to be involved with the family member's treatment. Since this experience, I have talked with others who have had to juggle work and long trips to see/help a family member due to psychiatric beds not being available close to their community. Also, as a retired teacher from Lake Forest (2016), I am very aware of the rise in need for psychiatric and substance abuse services in Lake County.

Thank you for approving this application, it is crucial to the health of our community.

Sincerely,


Leanna
847-371-1111