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January 30, 2019

Ms. Courtney Avery
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing in regard to Quincy Medical Group's Project #18-042. As an organization that provides specialized behavioral health care to at-risk children and their families, we are grateful for the quality medical services that are available in our community. We support the planful growth and development of health-related services in our region. We also believe it is important to consider the possible ripple effect or unintended consequences resulting from such projects that may impact current resources.

For many years, Chaddock has relied on the quality in-patient psychiatric care provided by Blessing Hospital to provide stabilization for our most difficult clients. In addition, a board-certified child psychiatrist from Blessing Hospital serves as Medical Director for our organization, extending the impact of the psychiatric support provided far beyond those who may have escalated to the point of needing in-patient care. We recognize from our own experience that reimbursements for psychiatric services often don't cover the full cost of care, and so these costs must be funded by other sources of revenue.

We would be most concerned if the addition of another surgery center in our community impacted Blessing's ability to financially support its adolescent psychiatric unit. Without the benefit of this local specialized expertise, we would have to transport the high-risk, at times volatile, children in our care more than 100 miles for inpatient psychiatric services, as opposed to having those services available mere blocks away now. Between 2010 and 2018, the average daily census for Blessing's behavioral health beds increased by more than 30%. Based on recent incidences where we have sought placement of a child and the adolescent unit has been at full capacity and unable to accept new placements, it is clear that such services are in demand and a critical part of our local healthcare continuum.

We recognize that your current consideration of this Certificate of Need does not relate to psychiatric services. We also know that as an integrated whole, when one part of a system is impacted other parts of the system are affected as well. Thank you for your consideration of all the possible ramifications, both stated and potentially unintended, in making your decision.

Sincerely,


Debbie Reed
President/CEO

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SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**