



GRAND PRAIRIE SERVICES
INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE

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Tinley Park, IL 60477
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August 27, 2019

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board
525 West Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Letter of Support for the Palos Behavioral Acute Hospital Center

I am writing in support of the establishment of the MIRA Neuro-Behavioral Health Center for Children and Adolescents; an acute mental health hospital dedicated to caring for children and adolescents in the southland community.

Inpatient behavioral health services are a valuable and integral part of the provision of behavioral health services for youth and their families. Furthermore, inpatient behavioral health services, when necessary, facilitate safe and effective recovery necessary for continued growth and development of children and adolescents.

Grand Prairie Services (GPS) knows very well the importance of such services as we are the primary provider of services for children, adolescents and their families who experience psychiatric crisis. GPS responds to nearly 4,000 crisis calls annually for youth and families residing in the southland community of Chicago and those residing near the Indiana border. Unfortunately, many families lack adequate insurance benefits which may impede the provision of inpatient psychiatric services in a child's immediate community.

An inpatient psychiatric hospital for children and adolescents, which provides inpatient psychiatric services regardless of family income, socioeconomic status, and located in the southland community, would reduce the barrier to access for children and their families as they attempt to manage what often times is a very stressful and difficult family event. The MIRA Neuro-Behavioral Health Center for Children and Adolescents which provides inpatient psychiatric services for children and adolescents with a strong emphasis on family engagement and support, would be a valuable resource to the Southland Community.

Very truly yours,

Sharronne Ward, Ed.D., LCPC
President and Chief Executive Officer

