

June 17, 2019

Administrator of the  
Illinois Health Facilities and Review Board  
c/o Ms. Gail Zator, Executive Assistant to  
Susan Nordstrom Lopez, President  
Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center  
836 West Wellington Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60657

**RECEIVED**

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HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

**re: Pediatric Development Center (PDC) and Behavioral Health Services (HS)  
to be combined under the name of The Wellness Center**

Dear Review Board Members:

I am writing in support of the certificate of need application regarding the Wellness Center proposed for the Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center. Some details of that support are provided below:

- Relationship with PDC/IMMC: There has been a more than 16 year history of collaboration between the University of Chicago, Section of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics (SDBP) and the Pediatric Development Center of IMMC. When the first Developmental and Behavioral Pediatric Training Program in Illinois was established at the University of Chicago SDBP in 2004, we sought out community centers of excellence that valued medical, developmental and rehabilitation supports for children with developmental delays, communication disorders, intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorder, learning disabilities, and high-risk neonatal intensive care graduates. In collaboration with the then medical director, Michael Cuppoli, MD and center director Carol Rolland PhD we involved fellows and faculty in the Center and emphasized early identification of autism spectrum disorder, biopsychosocial and rehabilitation supports for families with developmental delays, and quality supports for vulnerable children with disabilities. We also evaluated the impact of parent training and child group participation on trajectories of learning and social skills. This mutual partnership facilitated innovative models for teaching both developmental and behavioral pediatricians and clinical, developmental and behavioral psychologists. In addition both groups of trainees benefitted from recognizing the critical importance of family supports and explicit curricula for promoting communicative, social and adaptive skills essential to daily activities and community participation.
- Currently, Illinois is in a crisis of accessible developmental and behavioral health supports for families who are at highest risk for disability impacting on developmental, learning, and social behavioral competencies. These high risk groups include survivors of neonatal intensive care, children with epilepsy or

neuromotor delays, children with autism, children with genetic disabilities and children requiring surgical interventions for cardiac, craniofacial neurosurgical, orthopedic, or gastrointestinal malformations. We welcome collaborating with Drs. Bauer, Weedon, Belmonte and Fried, so that integrated systems of care exist for children with developmental and behavioral pediatric special health care needs.

- Reason for my support: The University of Chicago and Comer Children's Hospital's Section of DBP is committed to partnerships so that all children at highest risk for developmental or behavioral disorders access evidence-based management strategies that promote child functioning, social adaptive learning and family well-being. We welcome developing partnerships with community pediatricians and family practitioners, so that accessible supports exist for children with autism, global developmental delay, neuromotor disorders, and medical complexity.
- The positives of the PDC having a new building: There is a critical need for a new community center to address the epidemics of autism, developmental delays, ADHD and behavioral disorders for vulnerable children and those with special health care needs. The location of the PDC is accessible to families throughout the Chicago region. We anticipate ongoing collaboration between the PDC and the University of Chicago DBP and our SDBP fellows.
- Statement of Support: I support the new building project with enthusiasm.

Sincerely,



Michael E. Msall, MD