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MAIN OFFICE: 18929 LINCOLN ROAD

ROCK FALLS, IL 61270-0500

PHONE: 815/772-7431

FAX: 815/772-4721

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

1000 W. WABASH AVE. 2ND ST.

ROCK FALLS, IL 61071-1005

PHONE: 815/626-2230

FAX: 815/626-2231

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To whom it may concern,

Whiteside County Community Health Clinic (WCCHC) is a FTCA deemed facility. Our mission is to provide primary and preventative medical, dental, behavioral health and substance abuse services in Whiteside and surrounding Counties. WCCHC not only has 11 licensed therapists, but a MAT (Medical Treatment Program) for substance abuse treatment of alcohol and opioid use. We are an active partner with CGH Medical Center on multiple projects to improve the overall health of the community. One specific area of effort is the ongoing treatment and recovery of individuals with substance abuse and behavioral health disorders.

It is with our partnerships in mind, that I am providing a letter of support of CGH Medical Center's application for an inpatient behavioral health unit. In our most recent community needs assessment, depression and anxiety were identified as the number one health concern in our county. One of the primary strategies to address this health concern is to increase access to services for those with behavioral health needs. As an organization dedicated to serving the needs of the community, CGH has taken the lead to address this disparity by requesting an inpatient behavioral health unit.

WCHD shares this concern and believes the addition of a behavioral health unit will appropriately address the challenges of access for acute mental health services.

Respectfully,

Beth Fiorini, RN, BA, MS
Public Health Administrator & Chief Executive Officer
Whiteside County Health Department/Whiteside County Community Health Clinic