

City of Rock Falls

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

October 30, 2019

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson St. 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to request your approval of the CGH Medical Center's application to open to behavioral health unit in Sterling, Illinois.

It is a privilege to serve as the mayor of Rock Falls, Illinois. Our city is filled with residents dedicated to the health and well-being of the community. This is demonstrated through the work of the Whiteside County Health Department and Federally Qualified Community Health Clinic (FQCHC), which is located in Rock Falls.

As a Paramedic and now serving the City of Rock Falls as Mayor, I have first-hand knowledge of the behavioral health crisis confronting our community. This knowledge provides perspective on the devastating impact mental illness has on crime, homelessness, and unemployment in our community. Lack of access to behavioral health beds creates a continuous challenge and must be addressed. Between 2017-2019, 215 residents in Whiteside County presented to CGH Medical Center with the need for inpatient behavioral health services and no beds were available for transfer. CGH admitted and medically managed these patients until they were stable for outpatient behavioral health treatment. Over 57% of our residents are traveling over 50 miles away for inpatient behavioral healthcare.

As Mayor, I am committed to our citizens being able to receive care and treatment at a local level. It is unreasonable for them to travel 1 to 2 hours away for care. It is commendable that CGH Medical Center is stepping up to address a significant problem in our community.

I respectfully request that you approve their application to improve the lives of residents in Rock Falls, Illinois and Whiteside County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wm. B. Wescott'.

Mayor William B. Wescott
City of Rock Falls, Illinois