



WHITESIDE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

John F. Booker, Sheriff

Seth Janssen, Chief Deputy 815-772-5209

David Molina, Lieutenant 815-772-5215

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November 7, 2019

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of CGH Medical Center's Certificate of Need Application to open a ten-bed behavioral health unit.

The mission of the Whiteside County Sheriff's Office is to serve the community with integrity, respect and unity to improve the quality of life of the residents in Whiteside County. As the Sheriff of Whiteside County, the safety of our residents is my top priority.

The communities in Whiteside County are in desperate need of inpatient behavioral health services. My officers observe the consequences of this lack of access every day. Whether through a 911 call or in the jail system, the growth of chronic and acute mental illness is outpacing access to inpatient beds. It frustrates my officers to know that the residents we serve must wait for several hours or several days for an inpatient bed to appear. Even worse, a bed may never become available. CGH then works with telepsychiatry for medication management and partners with our community agencies to develop a safe plan for intensive outpatient care. Either way, we are not meeting the needs of our residents when they must transfer over 50 miles from home or be discharged without the opportunity for full behavioral health treatment and care. This parity must be addressed.

CGH Medical Center shares in our mission of serving the needs of the community. Their leadership has realized the negative effect of sending members of our community one to two hours away for inpatient mental health services due to lack of beds in our area. Opening a behavioral health unit is a huge responsibility and is not a decision that an organization takes on lightly.

I respectfully request the Board approve this application so the needs of the communities we serve are met.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheriff John Booker".

Sheriff John Booker
Whiteside County Sheriff's Office

Offenderwatch

400 N. Cherry Street
Morrison, IL 61270
815-772-4044

DARE