



HSHS
St. Anthony's
Memorial Hospital

September 1, 2020

Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities & Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761
courtney.avery@illinois.gov

Re: Opposition to CON Project #20-30 – Effingham Medical Office Building

Dear Ms. Avery,

My name is Andrea Cutler, and I am a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner with HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital Outpatient Behavioral Health. I provide direct patient services throughout the lifespan and treat a wide range of mental health problems. For example, my patients include children with behavioral and learning difficulties, adolescents with self-harm and suicidal thoughts, and adults with acute and chronic mental health issues that impair their ability to work and care for their families. We will also begin to provide psychiatric services for individuals recently released from incarceration in collaboration with Heartland Human Services, so that they may re-enter their community with appropriate care and be equipped to thrive. Increasing access to psychiatric services is vital to our community. Before St. Anthony's established the Outpatient Behavioral Health program, members of our community were driving over an hour for psychiatric care. Pediatric patients were especially underserved prior to the beginning of our program. These very necessary services are possible because of the mission of St. Anthony's and their commitment to serving the most vulnerable in our community. Mental health care is often sparse in rural communities, largely because it does not yield the same revenue as other departments. The revenue generated by St. Anthony's outpatient services allows programs like outpatient behavioral health to continue. I hope you will support our mission as we continue to meet the mental health needs of our residents by considering the impact redundant services will have on our community.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrea Cutler, APRN, PMHNP".

Andrea Cutler, APRN, PMHNP
Outpatient Behavioral Health

Cc: Mike Constantino
Project Reviewer
Illinois Health Facilities & Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761
mike.constantino@illinois.gov