



May 17, 2022

Debra Savage, Chairperson  
Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62761

**RE: 22-008 – Montrose Behavioral Health Hospital, Chicago**

Dear Ms. Savage and fellow members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board:

Lakeside Area Neighbors Association (LANA) in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood is a community block club for roughly 5,000 residents who live within its boundaries. An overview demographic snapshot of our community drawn from the most recent American Community Survey (2020) may be viewed online at <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/14000US17031031501-census-tract-31501-cook-il/>. LANA's boundaries include two locations for mental healthcare (the Children's Pavilion at 4720 N Clarendon and the outpatient center at 850 W Lawrence) that Acadia Healthcare recently purchased along with the facility in this application, which is the adult inpatient facility at 4840 N Marine Dr. As LANA's goals are to ensure our community remains safe, inclusive, and welcoming to all who live, work, and play in our area, we are committed to helping support Acadia Healthcare to renovate, re-open, and expand services at these facilities and to serve those in our area who need acute and long-term mental healthcare.

LANA had been unaware that the three properties mentioned earlier were purchased by Acadia Healthcare in 2021. We only recently found out about the application for the adult inpatient unit and wondered what the sale and plans meant for the two locations within our area. During the Public Hearing on April 15, 2022, we asked why the renovations at the two facilities at 850 W Lawrence and 4720 N Clarendon were not mentioned in the application. Acadia representatives explained that the projects at the outpatient center (850 W Lawrence) and the

Children's Pavilion (4720 N Clarendon) did not meet the dollar value threshold to prompt an application and review by the board. It has been the community's understanding, however, that facilities cannot divide projects into smaller ones that would then bypass review. So, we expected that Acadia Healthcare would need to list and get approval for all the work being done at the three facilities since the total cost of all three would meet the dollar threshold for review.

Therefore, LANA would like formal assurance that the work being done at the two locations in our area is going to help update and address some patient safety concerns that were brought up prior to the closure of the Children's Pavilion. LANA also wants to be assured that Acadia Healthcare is here for the long-term to help these facilities reopen, resume, and even expand services, as the demand for mental health services has increased since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

LANA also wants to be in dialogue with Acadia Healthcare as they move forward with renovations, reopening, and expanding services at these facilities. During the recent Public Hearing, LANA asked for a committee of local stakeholders, and Acadia representatives said that they are planning to have such a committee. LANA believes it would be prudent *to immediately and formally convene the recommended committee* to help Acadia Healthcare leadership navigate the changing needs of our community and any related changes in service.

LANA is concerned about the three parcels of expansion land within the LANA block club area that are now owned by Acadia Healthcare but whose renovation and use is not subject to Board review: the expansion land currently used as a parking lot at 818–822 W Leland, the expansion land that is a lovely green space at the corner of 800 W Leland and 4700 N Clarendon, and the expansion land that is being used as a parking lot for the outpatient treatment center at 840 W Lawrence. We know that the Board currently does not review changes proposed or made to expansion land owned by healthcare facilities, but in such a densely populated community where land costs are prohibitive and there is limited room for hospital expansion, these sites are critical assets to retain for the use of the facility in the long term.

LANA therefore requests that any decisions about these parcels be discussed with the local community *in the very beginning stages of any decision regarding their possible use*. At the Public Hearing, Acadia Healthcare's operations group president Jeffrey Woods stated that he could not envision a scenario where these parcels of expansion land would be sold for development. He was open to the ideas provided at the hearing about using the grassy area at 4700 N Clarendon to meet the urgent local need for community garden space and for a gathering space for community meetings. LANA wants to have further conversations about these spaces, and we appreciate Acadia's openness to dialogue.

Unlike many communities, ours welcomes and fully supports mental healthcare services and realizes that they are more in demand than ever, especially from the ongoing pandemic. We look forward to working with the leadership at Acadia Healthcare.

Sincerely,

Lakeside Area Neighbors Association

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