



April 6, 2022

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

RE: Montrose Behavioral Health Support Letter for Modernization of Hospital, Project 22-008

Dear Chair Savage:

NAMI Chicago submits this letter in strong support of the modernization of the behavioral health hospital located at 4840 N. Marine Drive in Chicago, by Acadia Healthcare ("Acadia"), under the name Montrose Behavioral Health Hospital ("MBHH"), to meet the significant need for behavioral health services in the greater Chicago area.

Since 1979, NAMI Chicago has fought for families and individuals impacted by mental health conditions and continues to be a formidable force for healing and community wellness. We organize and convene progressive solutions in mental health care, and are a trusted resource for individuals, families and providers navigating the mental health system. We promote community wellness, break down barriers to mental health care and provide support and expertise in Chicago and beyond. We are committed to showing up for everyone in our community, and thus fully support Montrose in their efforts to make behavioral health care accessible to all.

Mental health affects everyone, no matter who they are or where they are from. It intersects with every identity and every group in society. NAMI is proud to support Acadia's initiative, as they treat each person who enters their hospital with dignity and respect. Every patient is recognized as an individual and receives a customized care plan specific to their needs. Acadia treats patients of all ages and offers a full continuum of behavioral health and substance use disorder services. The Covid-19 pandemic has significantly taken a toll on the mental health of many Chicagoans who are experiencing a rise in the rates of depression, anxiety, and self-harm among other concerns. The inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services which Acadia will offer at MBHH will be invaluable to the Greater Chicago community and will play a critical role in addressing this dire health care need.

NAMI Chicago is heartened by Acadia's expertise in this space and their commitment to the advancement of behavioral health services. This undertaking will be of significant value to the community and surrounding areas in the long-term as this health care concern remains ubiquitous.

NAMI Chicago enthusiastically supports the approval of this project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
NAMI Chicago

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexa James".

Alexa James, MS, LCSW
Chief Executive Officer