



**Home & Community Services
Portage-Cragin Counseling Center**

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April 12, 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
#22-008**

Dear Ms. Savage:

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) submits this letter in Acadia Healthcare's ("Acadia's") efforts to modernize and operate the behavioral health hospital located at 4840 N. Marine Drive in Chicago, under the name Montrose Behavioral Health Hospital ("MBHH").

LSSI fights to transform the lives of Illinoisans living with mental illnesses and substance use disorders and stands with President Biden's bold vision for a national mental health strategy. The organization provides services and resources for individuals with serious mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders in Illinois and works with many populations, including youth and young adults, veterans, young mothers, deaf, and individuals experiencing homelessness, among others. At LSSI, we believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to live an independent, healthy life. We find that Acadia's mission to set the standard of excellence in the treatment of specialty behavioral health and addiction disorders aligns with our own mission and will play a significant role in improving the lives of those in our community.

MBBH is part of Acadia, the largest stand-alone behavioral health company in the U.S. and is a leading provider of inpatient and outpatient behavioral health and substance use treatment services. The community's health care system is suffering from throughput issues related to psychiatric over boarding and crowding the emergency departments. Acadia has a variety of models available in

collaboration with health system partners to help relieve that pressure and is prepared to meet demand. Acadia's specialized treatment programs are sure to be a great benefit to the improvement of behavioral health are in the Great Chicago area and beyond.

LSSI full heartedly supports Acadia's commitment to the advancement of behavioral health care and encourages your approval of their project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karah M. Kohler', written over a horizontal line.

Karah M. Kohler, MSW, LCSW

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

Associate Executive Director Community Mental Health