

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

May 17, 2022

Dear Debra Savage and members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board,

I am a resident of Uptown for the past 15 years, 11 of those years have been down the block from the Children's Pavilion at 4720 N Clarendon Ave. This is one of the three facilities that was purchased in 2021 by Acadia Healthcare. I am a registered nurse and care deeply about my local community of neighbors and diverse individuals who call this neighborhood home.

The entrance to the alley that I use to get to my home is adjacent to the emergency entrance to the Children's Pavilion at 4720 N Clarendon. Earlier this year, after a long hiatus of traffic to this building, I had seen vehicular traffic and trash being removed from the facility, but I was unaware that it has been purchased by Acadia Healthcare in 2021.

Two months ago, I found out about the application that had been submitted for the changes to the property at 4840 N Marine Dr. I also noticed on the website that there was no public hearing date for this application, so I reached out to the IHFSRB to request a public hearing date. I strongly feel that changes within the healthcare facilities in our area *should* involve dialogue with the community—in a formal and well documented public process. In the application that is at the center of the hearing today, Acadia Healthcare has proposed making very appropriate changes to the facility at 4840 N Marine Dr to make the patient and staff experiences better and more therapeutic and to provide more dignity to the patients. This should be applauded, and I and many in this community and even further away, as you can see with the many letters of support that have been submitted, we welcome those changes to this facility as the current 1960s layout and antiquated approach to inpatient mental healthcare is no longer suitable for inpatient mental healthcare in 2022.

As I reviewed the application and saw that there was no explicit wording about the Children's Pavilion, I was concerned since this facility has sat vacant for some time. The mention of pediatric patients is on page 9 of the application (page 11 of 80 of the PDF), which describes 101 adult beds and 60 pediatric beds are part of a facility called "Montrose Behavioral Health Hospital." Also on page 16 of the application (page 18 of 80), it mentions 161 acute mental illness beds that will be established, expanded, or modernized. However, the adult facility at 4840 N Marine Drive only has 101 adult beds and 0 pediatric beds. Therefore, I assumed that the pediatric beds were being renovated as well, but during

the Public Hearing on April 15, 2022, a representative of Acadia Healthcare mentioned that only the adult inpatient facility is part of this application that is being reviewed by the Board.

My understanding is that the Board only reviews certain projects that are above a dollar threshold and does not allow projects to be split up to be below that threshold. As these three locations were all purchased together, I would expect the renovations prior to opening need to be lumped together to be reviewed. I would like to raise concern over the application's omission of what renovations are taking place at the Children's Pavilion at 4720 N Clarendon and the outpatient center at 850 W Lawrence to prepare them to open in summer 2022, as described on the Acadia Healthcare website. This is only a few months away and as these facilities have been non-functioning for a while now, I'm sure there is a need for work to get them ready to welcome patients again. I would like the assurance that these two facilities at 850 W Lawrence and 4720 N Clarendon will be brought up to modern standards for patient comfort and the safety and wellbeing of the patients and staff. If there are any issues in the Children's Pavilion with regard to the layout and the safety of the pediatric patients and the staff who care for them, this would be an excellent time to address those issues prior to it re-opening.

As far as the expansion land that is now owned by Acadia Healthcare, there are three parcels very close to my home: the expansion land that is being used as a parking lot at 818–822 W Leland, the expansion land of park-like grass at the corner of 800 W Leland and 4700 N Clarendon, and the expansion land that is being used as a parking lot at 840 W Lawrence. I 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 expansion, these sites are such a valuable asset to hold onto for the use of the facility in the long term. I hope that the Board will change their process to include reviewing changes to these parcels of expansion land as they ultimately will help to keep the healthcare facilities in dense neighborhoods able to grow.

In the past 15 years while living in Uptown, I have seen the changes in my neighborhood from gentrification, loss of mental health providers, loss of social service agencies, and now the effects of a pandemic. Many people who call this area home have lost a lot of the facilities that used to provide housing, social services, and mental healthcare. I ultimately want to convey to the Board that I am in support of the application to modernize and renovate the facility at 4840 N Marine Dr as adult inpatient mental healthcare is very needed in this neighborhood. I also want to convey to Acadia Healthcare that I look forward to seeing the other two locations 4720 N Clarendon and 850 W Lawrence re-open, and even expand their services to meet to meet the increase in demand for these mental health services.

Thank you for your time and for working to keep our healthcare facilities open and able to provide services to the people of Illinois.

Ruth Castillo

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