

June 2, 2022

Chairwoman Debra Savage  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62761



**Public Health**  
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Peoria City/County  
Health Department  
[www.pcchd.org](http://www.pcchd.org)

**RE:** Support for Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Campus Project No. [22-017]

Dear Chairwoman Savage and Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Peoria City/County Health Department in strong support of Project No. [22-017].

As the Public Health Administrator, our agency is acutely aware of the health priorities facing the community. Since 2016, Peoria, Tazewell and Woodford Counties in Illinois have completed a Community Health Needs Assessments and Improvement Plan; and continuously Behavioral Health ranks as one of the top health concerns. Often accessibility and youth-focused care are cited as barriers in supporting children and adolescents in our communities.

UnityPoint Health's proposal of a state-of-the-art behavioral health campus would provide critical support and care for families throughout central Illinois. As the only provider of inpatient behavioral health services, UnityPoint Health would be able to increase capacity and adopt of a comprehensive care model strengthening care for our vulnerable youth.

Additionally, by utilizing an existing facility, UnityPoint Health continues to demonstrate an appreciation for local communities in Peoria County. Recognizing the value of reinvesting in neighborhoods and establishing itself as an anchoring institution in areas of disinvestment, UnityPoint Health's use of the Heddington Oaks facility should be applauded. The reuse of a building located in close to highly vulnerable communities, ensures that residents can be connected and responsive to the behavioral health need.

Again, I would like to communicate Peoria City/County Health Departments full support for Project No. [22-017]. It will greatly improve the health and wellbeing of our youth in Central Illinois.

Sincerely,

Monica Hendrickson, MPH  
Public Health Administrator  
Peoria City/County Health Department