



June 13, 2022

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

Re: Letter of Support for Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Campus  
Project No. 22-017

Dear Chairwoman Savage and Members:

As an executive of Advanced Medical Transport of Central Illinois and a lifelong native of Peoria, I am writing in strong support of Project No. 22-017

I have administrative and operational responsibilities for the Illinois Patient Transportation service line at AMT. This is a behavioral health transportation service that covers the entire state of Illinois with a 4 hour response time to transport involuntary and voluntary mental health patients. Over the past 2 years we have seen our volume increase and our distance traveled grow exponentially. The need for inpatient mental health has far outpaced the supply. I recently met with 2 hospital executives who, due to lack of inpatient mental health beds, were housing juvenile patients in their Emergency Departments for over 4 weeks.

I am acutely aware that investment in our community's public health – specifically, the health of our youth – could not be more important. No child should go without the care they need because of their zip code. Unfortunately, however, this is happening in our community. UnityPoint Health-Methodist Hospital, the only provider in our community of child and adolescent inpatient behavioral health services, simply does not have the ability within its current building and resources to meet the current and growing behavioral health needs of our youth. The proposed child and adolescent behavioral health campus will address these unmet needs and provide children and their families in our community with increased access to quality behavioral health services close to home.

I also applaud UnityPoint Health's decision to purchase and renovate the former Heddington Oaks nursing home into the proposed state-of-the-art behavioral health campus. While it was a difficult decision for the County of Peoria to close the nursing home and sell the property, I strongly believe this was the best outcome for both the community as the facility will continue to be used for non-profit healthcare purposes that will greatly improve the health and wellbeing of our youth.

I ask that you approve this worthy and important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Todd Baker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Todd Baker  
Vice President Advanced Medical Transport Central Illinois  
CEO Advanced Medical Transport of Iowa

June 9, 2022

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

Re: Letter of Support for Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Campus  
**Project No. 22-017**

Dear Chairwoman Savage and Members:

As Trustee of the Autism Spectrum Disorders Trust and a lifelong native of Peoria, I am writing in strong support of **Project No. 22-017**

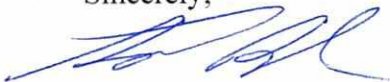
As a Trustee of the Autism Spectrum Disorders Trust in Peoria County, I have the opportunity to see firsthand the community need for mental health services. This has reached crisis proportion in our community.

I am acutely aware that investment in our community's public health – specifically, the health of our youth – could not be more important. No child should go without the care they need because of their zip code. Unfortunately, however, this is happening in our community. UnityPoint Health-Methodist Hospital, the only provider in our community of child and adolescent inpatient behavioral health services, simply does not have the ability within its current building and resources to meet the current and growing behavioral health needs of our youth. The proposed child and adolescent behavioral health campus will address these unmet needs and provide children and their families in our community with increased access to quality behavioral health services close to home.

I also applaud UnityPoint Health's decision to purchase and renovate the former Heddington Oaks nursing home into the proposed state-of-the-art behavioral health campus. While it was a difficult decision for County officials to close the nursing home and sell the property, I strongly believe this was the best outcome for both the community as the facility will continue to be used for non-profit healthcare purposes that will greatly improve the health and wellbeing of our youth.

I ask that you approve this worthy and important project.

Sincerely,



Todd Baker, Trustee  
Autism Spectrum Disorders Trust, Peoria IL