



Andrew A. Rand  
County Board Chairman

## County of Peoria County Board

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Tuesday, June 14, 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:

Unity Point Health has long been a valued community partner to the citizens of Peoria County, and we write today in strong support of Project No. 22-017.

As the elected and appointed leaders of Peoria County Government, we know firsthand the challenges our community faces with mental and behavioral health, especially in our youth. We have seen the efforts Unity Point Health has undertaken to address this critical issue. Over a year ago, we embarked on a journey with Unity Point Health to repurpose Heddington Oaks, better known to the Board as Bel-Wood Nursing Home (Project No. 11-013) for their Young Minds Project.

Earlier this year, you and the Board granted Project No. 21-035, which officially removed the County of Peoria from the skilled nursing business, and more importantly cleared the way for Unity Point Health to pursue their current application. The County of Peoria is enthusiastic and takes great pride in our opportunity to partner with Unity Point Health in what will be a transformative project for the youth of our community at a state-of-the-art behavioral health campus.

Poverty and violence plague our community today, and there is a direct linkage between the behavioral health of our youth and these incredibly challenging issues. Unity Point Health-Methodist Hospital is the sole provider in our community of child and adolescent inpatient behavioral health services, and they simply do not have the capacity and resources within the Hospital to meet the current and growing behavioral health needs of our youth. Their 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.

We ask that you approve this worthy and important project.

Best regards,

Andrew A. Rand, Chairman,  
Peoria County Board

Scott A. Sorrel  
Peoria County Administrator