



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
PATRICK URICH

June 20, 2022

Chairwoman Debra Savage
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. 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 the City Manager for the City of Peoria, I am writing in support of Project No. 22-017. While Peoria is known for providing outstanding medical care, we need additional support for mental and behavioral health, especially for young people.

The City of Peoria has prioritized public health and safety and has even committed to contributing some of the American Rescue Plan Act money to stand up the Public Equity Health Fund, in partnership with Peoria County and the Peoria City/County Health Department. Furthermore, City staff frequently interact with and aid community members who have suffered due to poverty and violence, and sometimes this population involves our youngest community members.

Approximately 24% of the City's population is under the age of 18. We know that this population is in dire need of behavior and mental health services, as was evident during the pandemic. The proposed child and adolescent behavioral health campus will help ensure that young people from around the region get the care that they need and deserve. We applaud UnityPoint Health-Methodist not only as the only provider in our community of child and adolescent inpatient behavioral services but for also transforming the former Heddington Oaks nursing facility into a campus that will bring a benefit to the entire community.

Thank you for your consideration of this project. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Urich".

Patrick Urich
City of Peoria City Manager

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Peoria, IL 61602