



# OSF HEALTHCARE

June 20, 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 Project No. 22-017  
Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Campus**

Dear Chairwoman Savage and Members:

On behalf of OSF HealthCare, this letter is submitted in support of Project No. 22-017.

As the Chief Executive Officer of OSF HealthCare's Central Region and an emergency medicine physician who practiced in the Peoria area for more than twenty years, I am acutely aware of the need for improved access to inpatient behavioral health services in the Tri-County Region. Inpatient behavioral health services are a valuable and integral part of the provision of behavioral health services for many adults and youth in our communities.

OSF HealthCare is a proud provider of behavioral and mental health services throughout Illinois. Behavioral and mental health issues are complex and require a comprehensive care approach for each patient. OSF HealthCare offers a variety of options to best fit our patients' needs, from outpatient therapy to medication management for a variety of conditions. We also provide adult inpatient behavioral health services at OSF Saint Elizabeth Medical Center in Ottawa (located within the same planning area as the proposed new campus) and OSF Heart of Mary Medical Center in Urbana. OSF HealthCare is well aware that adult, adolescent and pediatric inpatient services in Central Illinois has substantiated unmet needs.

UnityPoint Health-Methodist Hospital is currently the only provider of child and adolescent inpatient behavioral health services in planning area HSA 2. We understand that UnityPoint Health-Methodist Hospital does not have the ability within its existing building and resources to meet the current and growing behavioral health needs of our youth. When UnityPoint Health-Methodist Hospital is at capacity and unable to immediately provide inpatient care, children and adolescents must either wait for an open bed in the emergency department or leave the planning area to receive care. The proposed behavioral health campus will address these needs and provide children and their families with increased access to inpatient behavioral health services close to home.

We do not believe that the establishment of the proposed child and adolescent behavioral health campus and additional AMI beds requested will negatively impact other healthcare providers nor duplicate existing services in the planning area. Rather, the proposed campus will help to address unmet needs and improve access to essential, life-saving child and adolescent behavioral health services in the Tri-County Region.

I respectfully ask that you approve this innovative and worthy project.

Sincerely,

Michael Cruz, MD, FACEP  
Chief Executive Officer, OSF HealthCare, Central Region  
Chief Operating Officer, OSF HealthCare