



June 22, 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:

I am writing in support of Project No. 22-017, which addresses the adverse effects that poverty and violence have on our youth's mental health and wellbeing. As President & CEO of the Community Foundation of Central Illinois (CFCI), I have spent the last fourteen years immersed in the non-profit community of the Peoria region. In my role with CFCI, I have personally observed progress on many key social issues via the effective programs that have been developed in the Peoria area. However, while this community continues to thrive and grow in many ways, I believe it is still in desperate need of additional child and adolescent behavioral health resources.

At CFCI, we have made a long term commitment to supporting mental health issues via our grantmaking programs. Most recently, we, along with the Gilmore Foundation, awarded a collaborate grant totaling \$2.4 million to UnityPlace. This grant award will support their efforts to provide accessible mental health treatments for all central Illinois residents.

As UnityPoint Health-Methodist Hospital is the only provider in our community of child and adolescent inpatient behavioral health services, it is crucial that the proposed behavioral health campus be approved. CFCI fully supports the decision to renovate the former Heddington Oaks nursing home, which would have continued to sit unused were it not for UPH's vision for a new, state of the art facility. The proposed campus would allow local youth and their families to access quality behavioral health services without leaving central Illinois.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this project and request. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "MARK".

Mark Roberts
President & CEO, Community Foundation of Central Illinois