



OFFICE OF MAYOR RITA ALI

June 23, 2022

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

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

Dear Chairwoman Savage and Members:

This letter is submitted in support of the proposed child and adolescent behavioral health campus in Peoria.

As Mayor of the City of Peoria, I can attest to the tremendous need for child and adolescent behavioral healthcare in our city and region. I bear witness to the need daily.

The City of Peoria has a diverse population of 113,100 and our region's population is over 397,000. Over the past few years, we have experienced a sharp increase in suicides and attempted suicides among teens and adolescents, children experiencing trauma, abusing drugs, youth showing various forms of mental illness. Our current facilities have often been limited by their capacity forcing referrals to other cities for treatment and services. We are very pleased that UnityPoint Health – Methodist has purchased the former Heddington Oaks facility to soon provide inpatient behavioral health to a greater number of children and adolescents. We are optimistic that their proposed state-of-the-art Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Campus will be just what we need to effectively serve thousands of young people, providing a better quality of life for them and their families.

UnityPoint Health – Methodist is a strong and stable institution holding many high credentials. It is exceptional leadership and a well-educated and trained staff. It has the trust of the community and works collaboratively with other key stakeholders to solve community problems and improve outcomes for area residents. We are very grateful to have this institution with the expertise to provide a broad array of health services. Their specialty in child and adolescent behavioral health is second to none and they have earned our total confidence.

On behalf of the Peoria City Council, City Staff, and key stakeholders within the Peoria community, I urge your approval of UnityPoint Health's proposal.

Sincerely,

Rita Ali,
Mayor

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