

**Debra Savage, Chair**  
**Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board**  
**525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor**  
**Springfield, Illinois 62761**

**RE: Documentation of Projected Referrals to Advocate South Suburban Hospital for  
Establishment of Acute Mental Illness (AMI) Unit**

**Dear Ms. Savage:**

I am the Medical Director of Emergency Services at Advocate Christ Medical Center ("ACMC") and this letter documents the historical case volume of patients who have presented at the Emergency Department of ACMC and who were admitted for inpatient care at ACMC for treatment of their acute mental health needs and which we would expect to be admitted to the planned AMI unit planned for Advocate South Suburban Hospital ("ASSH"), our nearby affiliated hospital. Relatedly, this letter expresses my support of the Certificate of Need permit application to the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board ("HFSRB") for the relocation of the ACMC inpatient behavioral health services from ACMC to ASSH. This shift in the inpatient behavioral health program will improve the ability of our health system to meet the ongoing needs of the communities we serve.

Notably, ACMC operates a Level 1 Trauma Center – the highest-level designation possibly by the State of Illinois. This designation is based on our state-of-the-art emergency services with strong resources and the high number of patients we treat. ACMC has the busiest Level I Trauma Center in Illinois with a trauma surgery team available on site, around the clock and a dedicated inpatient trauma unit. The patients who present in the emergency department who are experiencing mental health crisis are in need of immediate care with dedicated behavioral health resources. The medical needs of these patients are typically of a different nature than those of the critically ill patients requiring our trauma care resources and of other patients we serve in the emergency department. Realigning the location of the inpatient behavioral health unit between our hospital locations will better allow our staff to focus on the discrete needs of our different types of patients continuing our mission to provide the highest quality of care to all of our patients. I support this plan and look forward to elevating our service levels especially in the face of new mental health challenges many of our community members face with the problems the pandemic brought home.

From January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020, ACMC admitted 749 patients to its inpatient behavioral health unit. From January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021, 770 patients were admitted to the ACMC inpatient behavioral health unit. A list of those patients who received inpatient behavioral health care at ACMC by zip code of residence is attached hereto as



# Advocate Christ Medical Center

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Attachment – 1. With the relocation of behavioral health services, patients who present to the ACMC emergency department requiring inpatient behavioral health services will be transferred to ASSH. As one might imagine, we currently accept transfers from other Advocate area hospitals that don't currently operate an AMI unit-ASSH and Trinity. As such, the patient transfers to ASSH will be similar to those we currently accept from these other area hospitals.

Consistent with Section 1100.360 of the HFSRB rules, the new AMI unit at ASSH will provide contemporary facilities in accord with all recognized standards of design, construction, operation and which represent the best alternative for the provision of quality care. In the context of inpatient behavioral health services, this provides for state-of-the-art practices for the elimination of ligature risks as well as for a therapeutic, healing environment.

These patient referrals have not been used to support another pending or approved certificate of need application. The information in this letter is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I support the proposed establishment of inpatient acute mental illness services at ASSH.

Sincerely,

Brian M Sayger, D.O.

Medical Director

Department of Emergency Medicine

Advocate Christ Medical Center

4440 West 95<sup>th</sup> Street

Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

Subscribed and sworn to me

This 18<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2022

Notary Public

