



1130 E. 154th St.
South Holland, IL 60473
E: info@covucc.org
P: (708) 333-5955

August 6, 2022

Debra Savage
Chairwoman
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Advocate South Suburban Hospital Behavioral Health Services Project

Dear Chairwoman Savage,

My name is Patrick Daymond and I serve as the Senior Pastor for the Covenant United Church of Christ (Covenant UCC) in South Holland.

Covenant UCC's vision is to be the realization of a multi-generational beloved community – connecting cultural affirmation, love of God and neighbor, justice for the poor, healing for the hurting, and liberation for the oppressed – for the betterment of the world and the promotion of God's kingdom (*Luke 4:18*).

Covenant UCC believes in the benefits of behavioral health care and supports the theory that religion and spirituality can have a positive impact on mental health. In fact, research suggests that religiosity reduces suicide rates, alcoholism and drug use.

Our Pastoral Care program offers spiritual, emotional and religious support, including counseling, guidance and support for our parishioners. From our experience, we see firsthand that religion provides structure and offers the ability to connect and realize when we need professional help.

Advocate will be investing in a \$21 million contemporary inpatient unit for crisis intervention and is expanding outpatient mental health services to fill a critical gap in our community to screen and intervene for behavioral health problems in the primary care setting. Early intervention will include emotional wellness coaching, care navigation and community referrals. We believe these services align with our pastoral outreach, and we believe that the south suburbs will benefit from this collaborative relationship.

We ask of you and your fellow members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to please approve this application for the good of our community.

I thank you for your support and may God continue to bless us all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick L. Daymond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Reverend Dr. Patrick L. Daymond
Senior Pastor