

8/8/2022

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

Re: Support Letter for Establishment of AMI Category of Service at South Suburban Hospital

Dear Chairwoman Savage:

I am Elizabeth Gawne, a native of Chicago and the surrounding suburbs and a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) affiliated with Advocate Christ Medical Center, which I'm proud to say is my first place of professional employment after receiving my nurse practitioner credentials. I am writing to urge your support to establish a 27-bed Acute Mental Illness Category of Service at Advocate South Suburban Hospital.

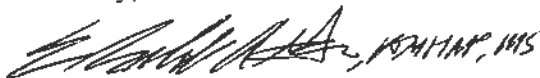
I began my formal education at Saint Louis University, School of Nursing, and worked for six years on inpatient behavioral health units in Illinois and Ohio. I continued my graduate studies and earned a Master of Science in Nursing from Eastern Kentucky University. Over the course of my training, I discovered a great passion for meeting the needs of patients with behavioral health needs. I also have a strong desire to give back to my community, which is why I returned to the Chicagoland area from Ohio, to work in psychiatry.

I believe Advocate's new inpatient behavioral health unit will deliver important benefits to our patients with its therapeutic and dignified care environment, which is the cornerstone of psychiatric nursing.

Along with my colleagues, I commend Advocate Aurora Health's support and investment in this project. I cannot express how eager we are to come to work at Advocate South Suburban and to bring our care and compassion to the residents in the south suburbs.

On behalf of us all who do this critical work, I urge a favorable vote. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth A. Gawne, PMHNP, MS