



Village President

Vernard L. Alsberry Jr.

Village of Hazel Crest

Trustees

Mary E. Grant
Kevin Moore, Sr.
Benjamin Ramsey
Marlon D. Rias
Java Rogers
Sandra Slayton

Clerk

Isaac R Wiseman

Village Manager

Dante S. Sawyer

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

August 4, 2022

Re: Advocate South Suburban – Establishment of Acute Mental Illness Category of Service

Dear Chairwoman Savage,

As the Mayor of Hazel Crest, past President of South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, Executive Board Member for the South Southwest United Way, and Vice Chair of the Advocate South Suburban Hospital (ASSH) Governing Council, I have spent most of my life in public service and am keenly aware of the community needs in the southern suburbs of Cook County. That is why I strongly support the Certificate of Need application to establish Acute Mental Illness Services at Advocate South Suburban Hospital (ASSH).

The proposed establishment of a 27-bed inpatient program will address one of the core findings of the ASSH Community Health Needs Assessment, which showed an increase in alcohol, substance use, and mental health emergency room visits; especially among residents aged 45-64.

This new behavioral health integration program will also include expanded services offered in the outpatient primary care setting to identify triggers for patient referrals including:

- Screening and assessment of potential behavioral health and social needs
- Emotional wellness coaching
- Care navigation and follow up for Behavioral Health
- Referrals to appropriate community resources
- Targeted telehealth psychotherapy
- Case collaboration with psychiatry for medication recommendations
- Therapist collaboration with PCP for patient's mental health needs.

Expanding these resources in the community will help avoid crisis admissions to area emergency rooms and bring much-needed coordination of care for our residents who continue to struggle with the social, emotional, financial and health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. I ask that you give serious consideration to this application.

Sincerely,

Vernard L. Alsberry Jr.
Mayor, Village of Hazel Crest