

8/8/2022

Debra Savage, Chair  
Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for Advocate South Suburban Hospital CON Proposal

Dear Ms. Savage:

I am writing to ask that you and your fellow Board members approve the Advocate South Suburban Hospital Certificate of Need request to establish a behavioral health services program for crisis admissions at this hospital. I am a physician currently treating patients who will receive care in the planned unit and I enthusiastically support the modernization of this program.

I am board certified in psychiatry and addiction medicine. Having completed my residency in psychiatry at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, I have continued my career with Advocate Aurora Health and am currently affiliated with Advocate Christ Medical Center.

I am pleased the new program at Advocate South Suburban Hospital will allow our system to have a significant focus on behavioral health patients for community residents away from the tertiary care setting where there are many competing demands for space and staff. I am particularly excited about the planned capital expenditures to provide for a state-of-the-art inpatient facility with private patient rooms and ample therapy space. I strongly believe that patient experience is an important measure that determines the efficiency and effectiveness of mental health services. As a mental health provider, I work hard to ensure that I deliver an exemplary patient experience. This new program will allow me to do my job in an optimal environment to the benefit of my patients.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your consideration of this project and respectfully encourage your favorable vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jessica M. Azoff', written in a cursive style.

Jessica M. Azoff, DO