



GRAND PRAIRIE SERVICES
INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE

www.gpsbh.org

**Access Department
Call
1-866-GPS-TODAY
1-866-477-8632
Fax (708) 596-6517**

Administrative Center
17746 S. Oak Park Avenue
Tinley Park, IL 60477
Phone (708) 444-1012
Fax (708) 614-7831
Fax (708) 614-9449

**Maurice Fitts Page
Whole Health & Wellness
Health Center**
450 West 14th Street
Chicago Heights, IL 60411
Phone (708) 985-3040
Fax (708) 474-8144

**James Williams
Specialized Clinical Services**
450 West 14th Street
Chicago Heights, IL 60411
Phone (708) 503-9670
Fax (708) 503-1218

**Dr. Joseph Lassner
Family & Individual
Service Center and
Screening Assessment
Support Services (SASS)**
19530 Kedzie Avenue
Flossmoor, IL 60422
Phone (708) 799-2200
Fax (708) 799-2711

**Dr. Sonya Monroe
Health Promotion
and Prevention Services**
16278 Prince Drive
South Holland, IL 60473
Phone (708) 754-8815
Fax (708) 798-1315

**Emergency Behavioral
Healthcare Center (EBHC)**
67 East 34th Street
Steger, IL 60475
Phone (708) 331-0500
Fax (708) 331-7590

**Developmental Training
Tinley Park**
17746 South Oak Park Avenue
Tinley Park, IL 60477
Phone (708) 444-1150
Fax (708) 444-1156

August 17, 2022

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

Dear Chairwoman Savage:

I write to you today to share my concern about the plan proposed by Advocate South Suburban Hospital and Advocate Christ Medical Center to transition Adult In-Patient Psychiatric Services to Hazel Crest Illinois and to suggest an alternative. The opinions addressed in this letter are also endorsed by the Board of Directors of Grand Prairie Services.

As you know, those experiencing mental health crisis across the country has significantly increased. Federal and local governments have demonstrated commitment to those suffering with mental illness. However, the plan to build a 23-bed in-patient mental health hospital for adults and transition all adult in-patient mental health services to Hazel Crest Illinois can have potentially devastating consequences for individuals and families in need, especially for communities traditionally marginalized as it pertains to health care, among many other disparities.

Potential barriers to the proposed plan include the following: Lack of capacity to manage the patient population, lack of adequate transportation, housing resources, available resources for well and follow-up care, resources to address social determinants of health (access to food, shelter, clothing, specialty care, transportation), to name a few. All of which has been shown to result in an early mortality rate of 25-30 years for the identified population.

It must be noted that I agree with the proposed plan to build a mental health in-patient and outpatient facility. However, for children and their families. The proposed twenty-three beds are not adequate to provide services for the number of adults transitioning from Christ Hospital inpatient unit nor those currently seeking in-patient mental health services. However, can be a lifesaving resource desperately needed by the children and families who otherwise do not have access to quality inpatient and prevention services.



Debra Savage
August 17, 2022
Page 2:

Children have been significantly adversely impacted by trauma experienced during this unprecedented time. The number of children who have attempted and successfully ended their life by suicide has increased exponentially. Children of color who previously rarely died by suicide are dying at an alarming rate. Furthermore, children are being traumatized by gun violence, poverty, and threats to their safety at an unprecedented rate. Parents often lack the skills, knowledge, and resources to ensure that their children have access to adequate care. A mid-size organization like Grand Prairie Services responds to 200-300 crisis calls involving children monthly. In a community that has three major hospital systems only one has an inpatient unit and follow-up care for children. It is not unusual for children and their families to wait 2 to 3 days on an adult emergency unit to be transferred to a hospital located on the northside of Chicago to receive services (due to lack of resources for children in the southland community). Furthermore, the only hospital that provides specialty care for children does not accept Medicaid as a source of payment.

As a country, we must provide our children with the resources and tools to live a long and healthy life. The provision of excellent quality services provided by an excellent team of professionals is a great start.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sharronne Ward

Sharronne Ward, M.S., M.A.R., Ed.D.
President & Chief Executive Officer