

February 19, 2023

Ms. Debra Savage
Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield IL 62761

Re: The Closure of Marklund Bloomingdale Philip Center Residences (22-049 - Marklund Proposal)

Dear Ms. Savage:

I am writing to you to oppose the closure of Marklund's Philip Center residences located in Bloomingdale, IL. It is a 21-bed facility that takes care of children with complex medical needs.

I personally know a family whose child lives at the Marklund Bloomingdale residences. From what they have shared with me, their child has received consistent nurse care over the years because they have had a consistent core of nurses there. The Bloomingdale facility also features a round shaped floor plan with the nurse's station in the middle, which helps the nurses and aides attend to the residents quickly and consistently. It is the setting for many social gatherings which are important for the kids' social and emotional needs. It doesn't have long hallways like those at the Elgin facility.

Many of the kids in Bloomingdale are seen by doctors and specialists who are mostly located in Wheaton and Glen Ellyn and as far as downtown Chicago at Children's or Rush Medical. If they are moved to a larger facility like Wasmond Ctr in Elgin, that will increase the amount of time that their nurses will have to be away from their facility, further increasing the patient to nurse ratio in Elgin.

Because of Marklund's accessible location in Bloomingdale, my friends are able to visit their child as often as possible in order to continue to be his best advocates. When their child needs to be in the ER or PICU for longer hospitalization, they are able to quickly get to CDH, a short drive from Bloomingdale, and help relieve the Marklund nurse, allowing that nurse to be back in the Bloomingdale facility sooner, rather than later.

I heard that Marklund leadership has thrown out various reasons for the closure, the latest one being that in order to update the HVAC system, they have to tear down the entire building. The Bloomingdale facility is the original site so they would've known about pressing issues for sometime, if any. Had they made a big deal about this and made a collective appeal to their big and small donors, such as myself, I would have donated money to that worthy cause. But from '16-'17, they built an extra school at the same site instead, taking space from residences.

The plan that Marklund leadership is proposing is supposed to make their services more accessible but it seems it's being concentrated in one area because they already have two facilities in that north/northwest corner of Kane and Cook counties. Closing down their Bloomingdale children's home and moving the kids to Elgin actually limits accessibility in 2 ways: it leaves a void in DuPage County's health care system (CDH's Level II PICU, NWM, proximity to Children's, etc) that is equipped to handle kids like my friends' son and 2) it limits their son's access to that system. Furthermore, the beds that they plan to add at their Elgin facility won't be for new clients but rather for the kids being moved from Bloomingdale, leaving only a handful for potential new clients.

Please do not let Marklund close down the Bloomingdale children's home. It is the one of very few options in the DuPage region for families, like my friend's, that offers a quasi-PICU setting for kids with acute medical needs.

Sincerely,

Name

Resident of:

William Wang
Glen Ellyn, IL