



Postpartum Support International
www.postpartum.net
Illinois Chapter Board of Directors

March 1, 2023

Re: Adult Behavioral Health Hospital

Dear Mr. Kniery and Members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board:

I am writing as the President of the Illinois Chapter of Postpartum Support International and local Coordinator for services. Our mission is to increase services, resources and trained professionals throughout the state. My coordinator role assists help seekers connect with services specific to pregnancy or postpartum mental health care. We are seeing dramatic increase in a need for services.

This letter is submitted in support of a proposed adult behavioral health hospital in Peoria.

The proposed facility will increase access to services. Accessible services will allow for more timely care, ability to receive support in or near their community, allow involvement of their support system, reduce wait-times in ER boarding, reduce unnecessary long distance transfers, increase the ability to provide ongoing follow up care, and provide the ability to meet the needs of high acuity patients.

We have hundreds of Perinatal Mental Health Specialists throughout this state, but ZERO certified perinatal mental health providers in Peoria that are able to provide care for the underinsured or uninsured. We have ZERO inpatient support services specific to women. We have ZERO OB/GYNs that are trained in perinatal mental health. We have ZERO perinatal psychiatrists that are able to assist with medication management for pregnant or breastfeeding women.

Central Illinois is in need of general adult support, dual diagnosis and specialized perinatal support. Currently in the United States there are only **THREE** inpatient units for women's specialized perinatal mental health care. We have an ongoing crisis in our county with mental health, and even more so when seeking specialized care for pregnancy and postpartum mental health challenges. Our families urgently need this specialized support. Most recent statistics state that 1 in 3 women may experience mental health concerns. Mental health challenges are the most common complication of childbirth.

I urge you to support the approval of the certificate of need application. Approval of this application will increase access to these important services in our area.

Sincerely,

Melissa Millinger, LCSW, PMH-C

Board President, Illinois Chapter

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