



May 7, 2026

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

Dear Ms. Savage,

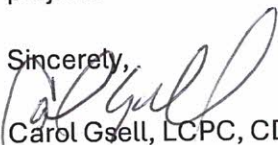
Anew: Building Beyond Violence and Abuse (Anew) is pleased to offer its strong support for South Suburban Hospital's Certificate of Need application to establish a dedicated observation unit. As a community-based organization focused on supporting individuals and families through critical transitions and life challenges, Anew has a longstanding relationship with South Suburban Hospital and Advocate Health as partners committed to improving access to timely, coordinated, and compassionate care across the South Suburban and South Chicago communities.

Anew has been providing services to families impacted by domestic violence for more than 40 years, resulting in deep roots with the community. Anew is known as a competent and dedicated agency advancing the cause of domestic violence. Our mission is to provide comprehensive, coordinated services to families in which domestic violence exists without imposing any one solution. These services include a 24-hour bilingual hotline, emergency shelter, housing, counseling, court advocacy, and partner abuse intervention. Our longstanding relationship with South Suburban Hospital and Advocate Health includes direct linkage to our services for those seeking medical care who have been impacted or harmed by domestic violence.

The proposed dedicated observation unit of 30 observation beds located near the Emergency Department and key diagnostic and procedural services, will ensure patients receive the appropriate level of care following emergency visits or during short-term clinical evaluation. This model allows for focused monitoring and clinical decision-making, reduces emergency department overcrowding, shortens wait times, helps prevent unnecessary inpatient admissions, and supports continuity of care. The unit will provide another level of trauma-informed services and care which is vital for our community.

From our perspective, the establishment of a centralized observation unit staffed by a dedicated physician lead and nursing team represents a thoughtful, patient centered investment in a community where access to care remains a critical and ongoing need. For these reasons, Anew strongly supports approval of this project.

Sincerely,



Carol Gsell, LCPC, CDVP, CPAIP, CCTP
Chief Program Officer



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