

Constantino, Mike

From: maryjane.yothment@hklaw.com on behalf of Clare.Ranalli@hklaw.com
Sent: Friday, January 07, 2011 11:39 AM
To: Constantino, Mike
Subject: Touchette Application
Attachments: Saint Anthony_s Health Center - Touchette application.PDF

RECEIVED

JAN 07 2011

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Please see the attached re: Touchette application.

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Partner
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[Admitted to practice in Illinois](#) [Admitted to practice in Michigan](#)

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SAINT ANTHONY'S
HEALTH CENTER

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E.J. Kurper, FACHE
President and CEO

January 6, 2011

Michael McManus
Chief Operating Officer
Touchette Regional Hospital/Kenneth Hall Regional Hospital
5900 Bond Avenue
Centreville, IL 62207

Dear Mr. McManus:

On January 5, 2011 I received your fax informing me of your application to discontinue your 39 bed Acute Medical Illness services and your Emergency Department at the KHRH Campus in East St. Louis, Illinois. Thank you for notifying me of this decision and for giving me this opportunity to voice my concerns in regards to the "downsizing" of the Acute Medical Illness unit.

Our Health Center currently struggles to find acute care beds for our mentally unstable patients. In 2010, Saint Anthony's treated 143 patients with *primary* mental illness diagnoses in the Emergency Department, and we discharged 50 patients from our inpatient units. These numbers do not include patients with mental illnesses as a secondary diagnosis. Finding placement for these patients can require contacting up to 15 providers. The average time for a transfer is 3-4 hours, but it can take over 24 hours depending on bed availability and the financial position of the patient. Due to the already existing shortage of AMI beds, we have had to transfer patients to facilities as far as Springfield, Illinois or farther to receive acute medical illness services.

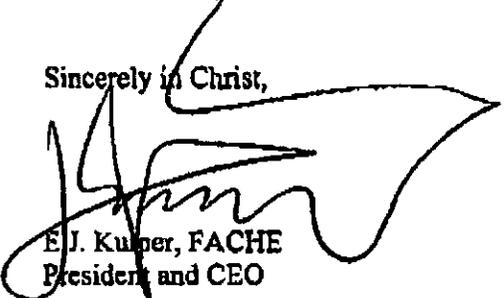
Although we have only transferred 8 patients to Touchette directly over the last year, this is not reflective of our unsuccessful attempts to transfer patients there when no beds were available. With the decision for Touchette to reduce its number of beds (assuming the 12 bed unit in Centerville comes to fruition), finding a bed for the mentally ill will be an even greater challenge and could put the patients at risk.

Historically, Touchette has played a very significant role in providing healthcare services to these mentally unstable patients by it being one of the few hospitals that has accepted self-pay patients and provided them with excellent healthcare treatment. Recently several other facilities have closed or decreased their acute care adult beds, such as Gateway, the Missouri State Facility, and Alton Mental Health, so the need for AMI facilities has increased.

To serve God is to serve His people.

Thus with Touchette's decision to reduce the number of acute care beds for the mentally ill, Saint Anthony's would anticipate an even greater delay in treatments for these patients and an increase in the patients transferred to facilities farther away. I understand the difficulty of your hospital's situation and respect your need to meet the needs of your hospital globally. Thank you for this chance to share my concerns and how it will affect Saint Anthony's Health Center.

Sincerely in Christ,



E.J. Kulper, FACHE
President and CEO



January 6, 2011

Mr. Michael McManus
Chief Operating Officer
Touchette Regional Hospital/Kenneth Hall Regional Hospital
129 North 8th Street
East St. Louis, IL 62201

RE: Letter of January 4, 2011

Dear Mr. McManus:

I am in receipt of your letter dated January 4, 2011 regarding your intent to discontinue the 39 bed Acute Mental Illness unit and Emergency Department at Kenneth Hall Regional Hospital and open a 12 bed Acute Mental Illness unit at Touchette Regional Hospital and an Urgent Care Center in East St. Louis, Illinois.

Anderson Hospital does not anticipate any significant impact to its services as a result of these changes as our hospitals have minimal overlap in our service areas. There continues to be a significant shortage of inpatient psychiatric services in Southern Illinois and it remains challenging to place patients in need of these services. Anderson does not provide psychiatric services and relies on the availability of beds at other facilities. The transition to a 12 bed AMI unit at Touchette Regional Hospital is a much better alternative than the elimination of services completely.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith A. Page".

Keith A. Page, FACHE
President & Chief Executive Officer

KAP:bac

6800 State Route 162
Maryville, Illinois 62062
618-288-5711

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Dedication. Compassion. Innovation.

MARK J. TURNER, PRESIDENT



7 January 2011

Mr. Michael McManus
Touchette Regional Hospital
Chief Operating Officer
5900 Bond Avenue
Centerville, IL 62207

Re: Touchette Regional Hospital/Kenneth Hall Regional Hospital Intent to
Discontinue AMI Category of Service & Emergency Department at KHRH

Dear Mr. McManus:

In response to your letter dated January 4, 2011 regarding the application to discontinue the 39 unit AMI Category of Service & the Emergency Department at the KHRH Campus in East St. Louis, Illinois, please be advised as follows:

1. Memorial Hospital has experienced in excess of a ten percent increase in the need for Emergency Department services since Kenneth Hall reduced service. The loss of beds and services at Kenneth Hall will further tax Emergency Departments and the SWIEMS system.
2. One of the most vulnerable populations which utilize hospital emergency services are the Acute Mental Illness (AMI) patients. Under the current bed limitation, it is often difficult to find hospital placement for these patients, but with the reduction of bed capacity from 39 to 12, there will be insufficient AMI beds to adequately serve the needs of the area.
3. Memorial believes it is important for the residents of East St. Louis and the surrounding area to have timely access to appropriate health care.

Sincerely,

Mark J. Turner
President & CEO