

# Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

**ATTENTION  
COURTNEY  
AVERY/ADM**

Illinois Health Facilities and  
Services Review Board  
2nd Floor  
525 West Jefferson Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62761  
Phone 217-782-3516  
Fax 217-785-4111  
TTY 800-547-0466  
Questions or Comments

To: Courtney Avery, Administrator  
 From: Patricia Pearce, RN, Referral Department, H. Douglas Singer Mental Health Ctr. *Px*  
 Date: August 9, 2012  
 Re: Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
 Decision about Singer remaining open for service for persons with mental illness

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I am respectfully requesting the Board keep Singer open for the following reasons:

Every day at work, I receive referrals from 21 counties in Illinois for admission to Singer after referring caseworkers have searched 5 services themselves and turned to the hospital search service ABS (Advanced Behavioral Services) that searches throughout Illinois. We have a waiting list for admission since there are no community services available as testified by the caseworkers.

The caseworkers serve 9 network agencies. Singer has always required proof that Singer is the service of last resort. There has been miscommunication to the Governor about the number of counties served by Singer after no community service is available.

The cost of persons with mental illness housed in emergency departments and jails is far more that serving them appropriately at Singer.

Please review the following data regarding Singer's area of service when allowed:

1. North Central Behavioral Services.....LaSalle, Bureau, Marshall, Stark, Putnam Counties
2. Robert Young Center.....Rock Island, Mercer Counties
3. Human Services.....Peoria County
4. Bridgeway Center.....Knox, Henderson, Warren, Henry Counties
5. Sinnissippi Center.....Whiteside, Lee, Ogle, Carroll
6. Family Counseling Center.....Stephenson, Jo Daviess Counties
7. Ben Gordon Center.....DeKalb County
8. Rosecrance Ware Center.....Winnebago, Boone Counties

Thank you for your time on this important decision and the people in need in the above areas. The Governor needs accurate information. Families and children are represented by the citizens living in these areas who can return to productive lives with help.

Community service is not available or people would not be living in jails and emergency departments.

LIST OF NETWORK AGENCIES FOR REFERRAL AND AFTERCARE

NORTHWEST NETWORK

December 16, 2011

**ROSECRANCE WARE CENTER #204 Winnebago, Boone counties**

326 W. State Street  
Rockford, IL 61101  
Liaison: Mary Ann Abate

Phone: (815) 720-4914  
Fax: (815) 968-5314 Attn: Heather Shull-Swanson

Belvidere office  
475 Southtown Drive  
Belvidere, IL 61008

Phone: (815) 544-4849

**BEN GORDON #254 DeKalb county**

12 Health Services Drive  
DeKalb, IL 60115  
Liaison: Martha Carlson

Phone: (815) 756-4875  
Fax: (815) 756-9145 Attn: Medical Records

**THN - FAMILY COUNSELING CENTER #253 Stephenson, Jo Daviess counties**

421 W. Exchange St.  
Freeport, IL 61032  
Liaison: Christine Hinkle

Phone: (815) 599-7300  
Fax: (815) 599-7398 Attn: Christine Hinkle

**MISSISSIPPI #278 Lee, Whiteside, Ogle, Carroll counties**

325 Illinois Route 2  
Dixon, IL 61021  
Liaison: Valerie Howard

Phone: (815) 284-6611  
Fax: (815) 284-6598 Attn: Valerie Howard

**STEPPING STONES (aftercare agency) #292 Winnebago county**

706 N Main Street  
Rockford, IL 61103  
Liaison: Sue Kirkpatrick

Phone: (815) 963-0683  
Fax: (815) 963-6018

NORTH CENTRAL NETWORK

**BRIDGEWAY #118 Knox, Henderson, Warren, Henry counties**

2223 Windish Drive  
Galesburg, IL 61401  
Liaison: Paul Anderson

Phone: (309) 344-4260  
Fax: (309) 344-4391 Attn: Mike Kovanda

**HUMAN SERVICES #324 Peoria county**

600 Fayette  
PO Box 1346  
Peoria, IL 61654  
Liaison: Gary Anderson

Phone: (309) 637-1696  
Fax: (309) 637-1693 Attn: Gary Anderson

**ROBERT YOUNG #206 Rock Island, Mercer counties**

2701 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
Rock Island, IL 61201  
Liaison: Katy Nelsen 309-779-3062

Phone: (309) 779-2031  
Fax: (309) 779-2027 Attn: Katy Nelsen

**NORTH CENTRAL BEHAVIORAL #220**

LaSalle, Bureau, Marshall, Stark, Putnam counties  
2960 Chartres Street  
PO Box 1488  
LaSalle, ILL 61301  
Liaison: David Thieme

Phone: (815) 224-1610  
Fax: (815) 224-1730 Attn: David Thieme

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June 1, 2012

## Budget update—July 3, 2012

The Governor has now signed into law the Human Services budget passed by the Illinois Legislature on May 31, 2102. This budget, contained in **Public Act 97-0730**, gives the Governor discretion to close any of the nine state mental hospitals but appropriates a total (in two line items) funding for state hospitals and transitions which exceeds the current amount being spent on state facilities. Specifically, for the current fiscal year (FY2012), the appropriation for state hospitals was \$224.5 million. Senate Bill 2454 contains only \$202.7 million for state facilities (Section 55, page 52, lines 1-9) but also appropriates \$24.9 million for “mental health community transitions or state operated facilities” (Section 65, page 54, lines 2-4) for FY2013. Unfortunately, the Department of Human Services has announced that it does not intend to reinvest the money saved from the closure of Tinley Park on July 2nd and the the closure of Singer on October 31st .

The budget bill also appropriates \$16.8 million for “rebalancing and transition costs associated with compliance with consent decrees.” (Section 60, page 52, lines 10-18). Presumably this is money to comply with the *Williams v. Quinn* and *Colbert v. Quinn* decrees.

The budget cuts \$30 million (20%) from General Revenue Funding for community services grants, reducing this line from \$144 million to \$114 million. There are 2 new pots of money to support community services each with \$20 million in them. However, there is some concern

about whether these funds will really be available and, if so, when.

Funding for psychotropic medications in the community was cut from \$1,980,000 to \$1,900,800 (4%)

The entire line item of \$742,000 for mental health transportation (getting people to state hospitals from remote counties) was eliminated.

Teen suicide prevention funding (\$206,400) was eliminated.

Supportive housing funding was increased from \$3.3 million to \$5 million

Further analysis of the budget will be provided soon.

**CBHA analysis of FY2013 budget passed by the legislature on May 31, 2012**

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May 22, 2012

## Urgent Action Item

**Senate Bill 2840** was passed out of the House Executive Committee yesterday (May 22nd) as a shell bill with no content. There are ongoing negotiations concerning the content of this bill to cut Medicaid benefits. Unfortunately, the legislature is still considering a proposal to limit Medicaid recipients to four prescriptions unless the recipients obtain prior

# Mental Health Summit

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August 7, 2012

## Summit testifies at hearing on closure of Singer Mental Health Center—August 7, 2012

Rachel Betts presented the Summit's written and oral testimony concerning the proposed closure of Singer Mental Health Center at a hearing in Rockford on August 7, 2012. The Summit does not oppose the closure but opposes the Department of Human Services plan for that closure because; (1) the Department is refusing to reinvest the money saved from the closure in alternative service in violation of Illinois law; (2) the Department's plan relies on replacing the 76 beds at Singer with services at Elgin, McFarland and Read, even though it has no plan to increase capacity at these already overcrowded facilities; and (3) the Department has claimed that it lacks the funds to keep the facility open or reinvest the savings from the closure despite the fact that funds were expressly appropriated for these purposes.

[Click here for news coverage of the hearing.](#)

[Written testimony presented by Summit at Singer closure hearing on August 7, 2012](#)

# JOURNALSTANDARD.com

## Potential Singer closure has sheriff worried

Unclear if mental health facility will close this year

By Travis Morse

**The Journal-Standard**

Posted Jun 09, 2012 @ 04:05 PM

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Freeport, Ill. — Stephenson County Sheriff David Snyders said he's deeply concerned possible closing of the Singer Mental Health Center in Rockford.

Not only would such a closure have a financial impact on this county, but it would also number of area residents with mental health issues would not be able to get the care t Snyders said.

"I, along with other sheriffs, have sent letters requesting that the facility not be closed. The plans to close it are still ongoing. Hopefully, there will be a change and the facility open. ... It's beneficial to us because of where it's located."

Earlier reports indicated that Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn planned to close the Singer facility October. However, State Rep. Jim Sacia, R-Pecatonica, said Friday that the Legislature funding mechanism that would allow the center to stay open. Still, it will be up to Quinn whether to close the facility, Sacia said.

"The belief is that the Governor will do what we recommend (and) keep it open," Sacia said. "The Governor still is the ultimate decision-maker."

The issue of Singer's potential closure was discussed at a recent meeting of the Stephenson County Public Property and Safety Committee. Furthermore, a special meeting will be held on June 13, involving members of this county's law enforcement and judicial system.

According to Snyders, the local sheriff's office transports jail inmates to Singer on a regular basis for mental health care. If Singer were to close, the sheriff's office would have to use another facility, which means higher transportation costs, Snyders said. Also, there's no guarantee there would be other facilities, he added.

"There are other mental health facilities throughout the state closing so there will be an issue of overcrowding," Snyders said. "If Singer closes, it's going to be extremely hard to get someone else to take them (another facility)."

### Alternate Sites

Jail inmates who need mental health treatment are often taken to Singer. However, the sheriff's office has also used facilities in Elgin and Streamwood, and for severe cases, the Chester Mental Health Center in Chester, Ill., Snyders said.

In addition, some local defendants are sentenced to undergo treatment at Singer, instead of jail. Without Singer, many of these people could end up in jail, which is a problem, Snyders said.

"They do not belong in jail. They belong in a mental health facility where they can get the care they need," Snyders said.

### Upcoming Meeting

Stephenson County Presiding Judge Theresa Ursin said Dr. Jennifer Aurand from FHN will be present at the June 13 meeting. She will give local officials an update on the potential closure of Singer.

"We do use Singer Mental Health Center for inmates and for people involved in the civil court system as well," Ursin said.

she had not heard of the Legislature's funding mechanism to keep the facility open. "We have been informed by FHI Counseling that Singer is going to be closing."

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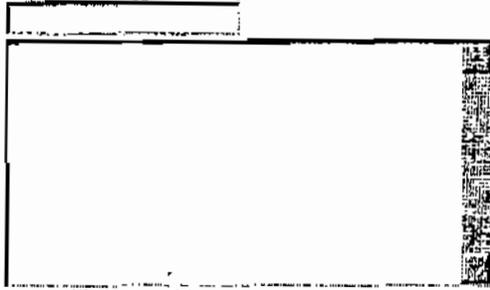
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Dadbug

2 months ago

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Based on what i can see happening in and around Freeport, the closing of Singer will not impact the menal health of stephenson county. Just loo harebrained ideas coming from the Stephenson county Board and NIDA regarding Mill Race to substantiate one's belief that there are plenty of i around our area that appear to be functioning regardless of their impaired mental condition.

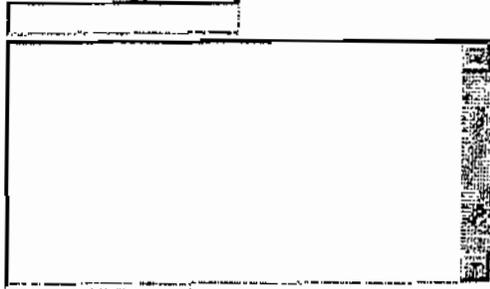
If we can live with these loonies these many years, then we can live without Singer.

QueenBee

2 months ago

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Yep, another great idea by our illustrious governor; time to vote this guy out too. Illinois does NOT have a good track record when it comes to ou fresh blood that is not tainted by the political stench of greed and corruption..... somewhere there is a 12 yr old that would make a better leader t had..... lets use our powers of the vote to make a change!!!

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