

12-060

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

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.