

Winnebago County Health Department

12-060

Promoting a Safer and Healthier Community Since 1854

August 22, 2012

J. Maichle Bacon M.P.H., R.S.
Public Health Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board, 2nd Floor
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Potential Singer Mental Health Center Closure and Alternative Local / Regional
Mental Health and Substance Service Network

Dear Board Members:

Singer Mental Health Center has been targeted for closure which raises service concerns by the Winnebago County Board of Health. Over the past several years the Singer Mental Health Center has had declining capacity to meet the psychiatric hospitalization needs of this region. This has resulted in individuals needing such services increasingly burdening hospital emergency rooms, sometimes for days and greater stress on law enforcement incarceration.

Northwest Illinois needs a more robust alternative service system for adults with behavioral health disorders. Should Singer Mental Health Center be closed, the Winnebago County Board of Health support the position that at least two-thirds of the current budget supporting this Center be awarded to the alternative system of care that has been proposed by Rosecrance. Rosecrance, in partnership with other community services providers including Stepping Stones, Crusader Clinic, SwedishAmerican, and Rockford Memorial Hospitals, together can provide effective interventions for those suffering from mental illness.

Funding such a system of care will reduce the number of individuals with mental illness in hospital emergency rooms and in the criminal justice system and would provide the opportunity for more patient-centered care in a outpatient / non-hospital care management system that would promote recovery in all services.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this important matter for this community and for the surrounding region.

Sincerely,



Inara McGroarty, President
Winnebago County Board of Health



Celebrating 150 Years and Beyond

401 Division Street P.O. Box 4009 Rockford IL 61110-0509 (815) 720-4000
www.wchd.org





Promoting a Safer and Healthier Community Since 1834

J. Maichle Bacon, M.P.H., R.S.
Public Health Administrator

FAX TRANSMITTAL

TO: Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
Fax: 217-785-4111

FROM: Inara McGroarty, President
Winnebago County Board of Health
Phone: (815)720-4200, Fax: (815)720-4203

DATE: August 22, 2012

RE: Potential Singer Mental Health Center Closure and
Alternative Local / Regional Mental Health and
Substance Service Network

Total number of pages including cover page: 2

COMMENTS: See enclosed Letter

Service Locations

401 Division St. Rockford, IL 61104-2014 (815)720-4000

555 North Court St. Rockford, IL 61103-6862 (815)720-4000

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