



Pat Quinn, Governor

Illinois Department of Human Services

Michelle R. B. Saddler, Secretary

Greater Illinois - Central Region
Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center

● Jordan Litvak, Network Manager
● Karen Schweighart, Hospital Administrator

November 14, 2012

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Fl.
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Ms. Avery:

This letter comes to you in support of the Robert Young Center (RYC) in Rock Island/Moline, Illinois who is applying for a grant to develop a Crisis Stabilization Unit in order to add a critical component to their current continuum of care. We have worked closely with RYC both in their role as a state-funded provider of outpatient mental health services as well as in their role of managing an inpatient psychiatric program at Trinity Medical Center/Rock Island.

More specifically, we have had the pleasure of working with Robert Young Center as they have engaged in forward-thinking projects to meet the current and future needs of behavioral health individuals. Currently RYC is in the third and final year of a Title XX grant focused on Primary/Behavioral Health Integration. Their success in working with their local FQHC to form one treatment team serving shared clients and developing recovery-focused peer support groups for both mental health and medical issues has shown early success in raising client life-satisfaction scores and decreasing utilization of emergency room visits to address both behavioral and medical health concerns.

Most recently, the Division of Mental Health is working closely with RYC in the implementation of a state rebalancing plan to enhance community outpatient and inpatient assessment and service delivery to indigent individuals with severe mental illness to manage crisis episodes without resorting to state-operated hospital care. These services have included a service model of outreach and assessment that will lead to tele-assessment capability. The addition of a crisis stabilization unit to RYC's outpatient, partial hospital, inpatient behavioral health programs and integrated behavioral/primary health care services will allow this agency to provide the complete continuum of care in a most efficient and effective manner. It is therefore without reservation that we support Robert Young Center in their application for this grant.

Sincerely,

Jordan Litvak
Executive Director, Regions 3 & 4
Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health