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FEB 25 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF ILLINOIS

MICHAEL J. MADIGAN
SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROOM 300
STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

February 24, 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Letter of Support – Holy Cross Hospital Proposed Psychiatry Unit
Project 13-076

Dear Ms. Avery:

As a result of a shortage of Acute Mental Illness hospital beds in the Holy Cross Hospital community, Sinai Health System is requesting approval to open a fifty bed inpatient Psychiatric Unit at Holy Cross.

As Holy Cross Hospital is the only hospital in a very large and densely populated area, it has one of the busiest emergency departments in the state and serves a very large Medicaid and uninsured population. Holy Cross also has the closest Emergency Department to Midway Airport. Placement of emergency patients requiring inpatient behavioral health treatment often requires long waits and can be very difficult for patients, families and hospital staff. Waits are usually much longer for people that have limited resources as many institutional inpatient programs do not accept Medicaid or uninsured patients. A significant number of people living in the communities surrounding are only now Medicaid eligible and many will be ineligible for Medicaid as they are undocumented. All of these conditions result in unnecessarily inefficient and expensive care through long wait times and tie up needed emergency services.

For many years, Sinai Health System has addressed the mental health needs of the communities it serves, including Medicaid patients and the uninsured, with high quality inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services.

By establishing inpatient psychiatric services at Holy Cross Hospital, Sinai Health System will be providing critical, greatly needed and accessible treatment for patients and their families from the communities served. I urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Planning Board to approve this much needed service to better care for the mentally ill in our southwest side Chicago communities.

With kindest personal regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Madigan".

MICHAEL J. MADIGAN
Speaker of the House

MJM:jms

BOBBY L. RUSH

1ST DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

RANKING MEMBER, ENERGY AND POWER
COMMERCE, MANUFACTURING AND TRADE
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

ASSISTANT WHIP

CO-CHAIR

AFRICAN PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

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CONGRESSIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY CAUCUS

CO-CHAIR

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STEERING AND POLICY COMMITTEE

RECEIVED

FEB 25 2014

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

February 6, 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Letter of Support – Holy Cross Hospital Proposed Psychiatry Unit – Project 13-076

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing in strong support of the application of the Mount Sinai Health System to open a fifty bed inpatient Psychiatric Unit at Holy Cross Hospital on the Southwest side of Chicago. As you are aware, there is a significant shortage of mental health care facilities within the Holy Cross Hospital service area, and this development will help to increase access to inpatient psychiatric services there.

For many years, Sinai Health System has addressed the mental health needs of the communities it serves, including Medicaid patients and the uninsured, with high quality inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services. As part of the Sinai system, Holy Cross Hospital will greatly benefit from the expertise of the Sinai Health System and provide valuable mental health services to the Southwest side of Chicago.

Arranging for and obtaining a bed for a patient in need of psychiatric services usually involves a time consuming process and patients are often made to wait for many hours or even days, to receive the inpatient placement they need. Additionally, a significant number of people that reside in the communities surrounding Holy Cross Hospital will now be covered by the Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act, and service capacity will need to expand to handle the additional patients.

By establishing inpatient psychiatric services at Holy Cross Hospital, Sinai Health System will be providing critical and accessible treatment for patients and their families in the surrounding community. I strongly urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Planning Board to approve this much needed service in order to facilitate greater care for the mentally ill in my congressional and beyond. If I can be of further assistance on this matter, please contact Orlando Jones, Jr., in my office at 202-225-4372 or at orlando.jones@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

www.house.gov/rush

WASHINGTON
2268 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-1301

CHICAGO
700-706 East 79th Street
Chicago, IL 60619-3102

MIDLOTHIAN
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CAPITOL OFFICE:

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SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
217-782-6966
FAX: 217-782-1631

STATE OF ILLINOIS



COMMITTEES:

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EXECUTIVE
HUMAN SERVICES - CHAIR
PUBLIC HEALTH - VICE-CHAIR

DISTRICT OFFICE:

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102 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
60616 312-949-1908
FAX: 312-949-1958

WEBSITE

SENATORHUNTER.COM

MATTIE HUNTER
MAJORITY CAUCUS WHIP
STATE SENATOR - 3RD DISTRICT

February 6, 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Holy Cross Hospital Proposed Psychiatry Unit, Project 13-076

Dear Ms. Avery:

This letter is written in support of Holy Cross Hospital's proposed psychiatry unit. Due to a shortage of Acute Mental Illness hospital beds in the Holy Cross Hospital community, Sinai Health System has asked for the authority to open a fifty bed inpatient Psychiatric Unit at Holy Cross.

Holy Cross Hospital is the only hospital in a very large and densely populated service area. It has one of the busiest emergency departments in the state and serves a very large Medicaid and uninsured population. It is often difficult to place emergency patients requiring inpatient behavioral health treatment. Many of these patients have excessive waits while the emergency department physicians and staff try to arrange inpatient treatment at any of numerous distant hospitals. Placements become even more difficult when a patient is either uninsured or underinsured.

Sinai Health System has demonstrated a strong commitment to address the mental health needs of the communities it serves and has provided high quality inpatient care and outpatient services for many years.

I strongly urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Planning Board to approve this much needed Acute Mental Illness unit at Holy Cross Hospital.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mattie Hunter".

Mattie Hunter
Majority Caucus Whip
Illinois State Senator
3rd Legislative District

**ACCESS COMMUNITY
HEALTH
NETWORK**

Caring. Committed. Connected.

February 14, 2014
Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Administrative Offices

600 W. Fulton Street
2nd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60661
phone: 312.526.2200
accesscommunityhealth.net

Denise Kitchen

Chairwoman

Donna Thompson

Chief Executive Officer

RE: Letter of Support
Holy Cross Hospital Proposed Psychiatry Unit
Project 13-076

Dear Ms. Avery:

Access Community Health Network (ACCESS) supports Sinai Health System's proposal to open a fifty-bed inpatient Psychiatry Unit on the Holy Cross Hospital Campus due to the shortage of Acute Mental Illness hospital beds in the surrounding communities that Holy Cross serves.

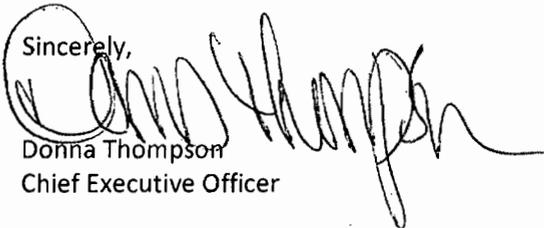
Holy Cross Hospital is the only hospital in a very large and densely populated service area. It has one of the busiest emergency departments in the state and serves a very large Medicaid and uninsured population. It is often difficult to place emergency patients requiring inpatient behavioral health treatment. Many of these patients have excessive waits while the emergency department physicians and staff try to arrange inpatient treatment at distant hospitals. Placements become even more difficult when a patient is either uninsured or underinsured.

Sinai Health System has demonstrated a strong commitment to address the mental health needs of the communities it serves and has provided high quality inpatient care and outpatient services for many years.

Access Community Health Network (ACCESS) is the largest federally qualified health center in Illinois providing primary and preventive care to 200,000 low-to-moderate income patients. ACCESS has a long and extensive history of working with Sinai Health System to provide critical services in medically underserved communities in Chicago. We operate community health centers on site at Holy Cross Hospital and the Mount Sinai Hospital campus and we are well aware of the need for accessible behavioral health services for our communities.

ACCESS strongly urges the Illinois Health Facilities and Planning Board to approve this needed Acute Mental Illness unit at Holy Cross Hospital.

Sincerely,


Donna Thompson
Chief Executive Officer

Metropolitan
family services

February 10, 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Letter of Support
Holy Cross Hospital Proposed Psychiatry Unit
Project 13-076

Dear Ms. Avery,

Due to a shortage of resources for community residents with Acute Mental Illness, Sinai Health System has asked for the authority to open a fifty bed inpatient Psychiatric Unit at Holy Cross.

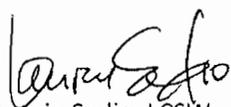
Holy Cross Hospital is the only hospital in a very large and densely populated service area. It has one of the busiest emergency departments in the state and serves a very large Medicaid and uninsured population. It is often difficult to place emergency patients requiring inpatient behavioral health treatment. Many of these patients have excessive waits while the emergency department physicians and staff try to arrange inpatient treatment at any of numerous distant hospitals. Placements become even more difficult when a patient is either uninsured or underinsured.

Sinai Health System has demonstrated a strong commitment to address the mental health needs of the communities it serves and has provided high quality inpatient care and outpatient services for many years.

Metropolitan Family Services provides out-patient psychiatric and mental health services to over 3500 adults each year. The vast majority of our patients are uninsured or under insured relying on community hospitals like Holy Cross to meet their needs for in-patient services during times of crisis. Long wait times are exceptionally difficult for patients with mental health problems to manage. There have been reports of patients waiting in the ER for over 24 hours because there were no CHIPS beds available. This experience has been echoed by numerous patients we serve throughout the years.

Metropolitan Family Services strongly urges the Illinois Health Facilities and Planning Board to approve this needed Acute Mental Illness unit at Holy Cross Hospital.

Sincerely,


Laurie Sedio, LCSW

Executive Director, Midway Center and Southeast Chicago Center



Community
Behavioral
Healthcare
Association

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FEB 25 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Frank Anselmo, MPA
Chief Executive Officer
3085 Stevenson Drive, Suite 203
Springfield, Illinois 62703
Phone: 217/585-1600
Fax: 217/585-1601
www.cbha.net

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Project Number 13-076

Dear Ms. Avery

The Community Behavioral Healthcare Association of Illinois (CBHA), a statewide association of not for profit community based providers of care, treatment and services for individuals with mental and substance use disorders or conditions, welcomes this opportunity to submit a letter of support on behalf of Holy Cross Hospital request to add 50 adult psychiatric beds.

CBHA's mission is to ensure access and availability of a comprehensive system of accountable, quality behavioral healthcare services for the people of Illinois and for that reason and those listed below, we support Sinai Health System's request to open a new inpatient psychiatric program on the southwest side of Chicago.

The Reduction of Psychiatric Beds

From 2009- 2012, community mental health in Illinois experienced \$113 million dollars in cuts from the state. A large percentage of these cuts resulted in the elimination of funds that were used to provide psychiatric services. In addition, the state also closed, Tinley Park Mental Health Center, a state operated inpatient hospital. The cuts and closings opened up additional gaps in a continuum of care treatment and services in need of an array of psychiatric services. Last year DHS-DMH reported care is available to only 16% of those in need. Current reports substantiate there are overflowing hospital emergency rooms and crowded jails due to individuals with mental health disorders and conditions who do not having timely access to appropriate care when they are in need of that care, treatment or service. Sinai's proposal will greatly help provide necessary and essential services. It will help fill in the gaps in the continuum of care needed for Healthy and Safe communities.

Increasing Demand for Mental Health Services

As Illinois undertakes a major expansion of Medicaid and the Marketplace according to HRSA under the Affordable Care Act, as many as 320,000 uninsured low-income residents with depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, post-traumatic stress and other psychiatric illnesses will qualify for publicly funded health insurance for the first time. A certain percentage of newly eligible individuals coupled with the gaps in care for the existing Medicaid population seeking help for mental illnesses will tax an already overly burdened system unless services. We support Sinai's vision to meet this demand on the Southwest side of Chicago.

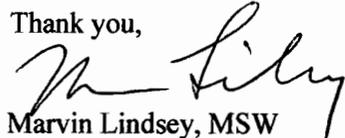
Sinai's Long Standing Commitment to Communities It Serves

Over the last thirty years, Mt. Sinai Hospital's psychiatric program has provided a broad spectrum of quality, affordable and accessible inpatient, outpatient and residential mental health programs to children, youth, adults and families in neighborhoods on the Westside of Chicago.

SHS's commitment has been demonstrated by Sinai's continued expansion into Westside communities that lack mental health services and have the greatest need.

It is our pleasure to support Holy Cross Hospital's request to add 50 adult psychiatric beds.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Lindsey', written over the printed name.

Marvin Lindsey, MSW
Behavioral Health Associate