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MAY 05 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

April 30, 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, 2nd floor
Springfield, IL. 62761

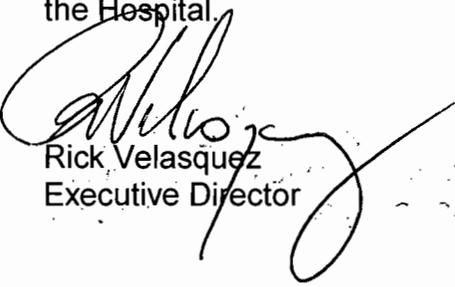
RE: Letter of Support - Project 14-011 Maryville Behavioral Health Hospital

Dear Ms. Avery:

Please accept this as a "letter of support" on behalf of Maryville Behavioral Health Hospital's ("Hospital") application for a permit to discontinue its operations. I am the Executive Director of Youth Outreach Services (YOS), a Chicago-based child welfare agency that serves at-risk youth. I have worked in the child welfare field for 35 years. I have also been a member of the Maryville Academy Board of Directors for 8 years and have served on the Hospital's Board as well.

I recognize, given my position at YOS, that there are many times when adolescents require acute mental health inpatient hospitalization. However, Maryville Academy directs most of its programs to residential and outpatient support services for children and their families in need. Only recently in Maryville's overall history has it operated an inpatient acute care facility. The Maryville Behavioral Health Hospital has been a good steward on behalf of children in need, however it is time that other general acute care hospitals that have the capacity, provide the inpatient treatment services that some of these children require. I am certain that these other hospitals are better equipped to do so while sustaining their financial health, given the diversity of their clinical services and primary business model.

The current and continued financial strain of operating the Maryville Behavioral Health Hospital must not jeopardize the fundamental and historic Maryville Academy program services. For this reason, and with the knowledge that other hospitals can and have offered to provide inpatient adolescent psychiatric care, I support the discontinuation of the Hospital.


Rick Velasquez
Executive Director

Youth Outreach Services
Administrative Office
2411 W. Congress Pkwy.
Chicago, Illinois 60612
773.777.7112
773.777.7611 (fax)
www.yos.org





SCHOOL of LAW

Civitas ChildLaw Center

Phillip H. Corboy Law Center
25 E. Pearson Street, 11th Floor • Chicago, IL 60611
P • 312.915.6481 F • 312.915-6485
E • childlaw-center@LUC.edu W • LUC.edu/childlaw

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RE: Letter of Support - Project 14-011 Maryville Behavioral Health Hospital

Dear Ms. Avery:

Please accept this as a "letter of support" on behalf of Maryville Behavioral Health Hospital's ("Hospital") application for a permit to discontinue its operations. I am professor of law and Director of the Civitas ChildLaw Center at Loyola University's School of Law. I have been a member of the Maryville Academy Board of Directors for nearly a decade. I have also served on the Hospital's Board of Directors for several years, and am currently the Chairperson of that Board.

I support the Maryville Academy's application to discontinue its Hospital's operations. This will allow Maryville to re-dedicate its precious resources to its residential and family preservation programs. Closing the Hospital will not negatively impact other hospitals as it is clear that inpatient behavioral health beds in Maryville's service area are under-utilized. The other hospitals can accommodate the Hospital's patients. Overall, the Hospital's closure will enhance Maryville Academy's ability to provide behavioral health services in a community setting by allowing it to focus on the programs it has excelled in for over a century.

Sincerely,

Diane Geraghty
A. Kathleen Beazley Chair in Children's Law and Policy
Professor of Law and
Director, Civitas ChildLaw Center



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RE: Letter of Support - Project 14-011 Maryville Behavioral Health Hospital

Dear Ms. Avery:

Please accept this as a "letter of support" on behalf of Maryville Behavioral Health Hospital's ("Hospital") application for a permit to discontinue its operations. I have been a member of the Maryville Board of Directors for five years and currently serve as its Treasurer. I am very familiar with the financial condition of Maryville Academy and its programs.

I regret the need to close the Hospital but I strongly believe that its losses over time will diminish the overall Maryville Academy mission and services. The Hospital operated with a \$4 million deficit in 2013 and is expected to lose approximately \$6 million this fiscal year. In fact, the Hospital has lost money in 7 of the last 10 years that it has been operated by Maryville.

I understand that there are an adequate number of psychiatric inpatient hospital beds for children and adolescents in the geographic area served by the Hospital. There are four other freestanding behavioral health hospitals in Cook County and a number of hospitals with inpatient behavioral health units in northern Cook County, Lake County, McHenry and DuPage counties that can serve Maryville Hospital's patients. Various hospitals responded to our request for impact statement. None said the closure will negatively impact them, and a number indicated the ability to accept the patients currently served by the Hospital.

In sum, I support Maryville Academy's application to discontinue its Hospital's operations. This will allow Maryville to re-dedicate its precious resources to its residential and family preservation programs. The Hospital's closure will enhance Maryville's ability to provide behavioral health services in a community setting by allowing it to focus on the program it has excelled in for over a century.

Sincerely,

Andrew R. Lotts
Treasurer
Maryville Academy Board of Directors

