

May 5, 2014

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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

Re: *Letter of Support – Project 14-011 Maryville Behavioral Health Hospital*

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing to support Maryville Behavioral Health Hospital's ("Hospital") application for a permit to discontinue its operations. I have been a member of the Maryville Academy Board of Directors for over five years and currently serve as its Chairman.

I am familiar with the good work that Maryville Academy has done on behalf of children and their families for over 129 years, including operating the Hospital since 2000. However, given that the Hospital has suffered significant financial losses in the past ten years and that there are adequate Acute Mentally Ill ("AMI") inpatient beds in Maryville's service area, I believe it is in the best interest of children and families served by other Maryville Academy programs that it be allowed to close the Hospital.

It is my understanding that the Hospital operated with a \$4 million deficit in 2013 and will lose approximately \$6 million this fiscal year. Maryville Academy's outstanding residential care and family preservation service programs will be at risk if it continues to operate the Hospital at this level of deficit. Maryville's residential living program offers homes to over 150 children and adolescents; the Madden Shelter provides temporary housing for homeless teenagers; the Children's Healthcare Center and Crisis Nursery offer assistance to hundreds of families who are in crisis. The greater good is served by allowing Maryville to continue its mission of serving families and children in these programs rather than continuing to incur significant losses operating the Hospital. There would be a far greater negative impact on mental health care for children if Maryville's residential and family preservation programs have to close.

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In conclusion, 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 the level of care in the community, 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.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard A. Devine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "D".

Richard A. Devine

RAD:ab

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