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May 7, 2014

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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

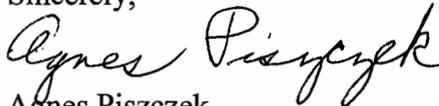
Dear Ms. Avery:

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 Chair of Maryville Academy's Residential Services Committee and have been a member of the Maryville Academy Board of Directors for 9 years. I have also served on the Hospital's Board for 8 years. Before my retirement, I worked for the Department of Children and Family Services for 30 years. I am familiar with the good work that Maryville Academy has done on behalf of children and their families for over 129 years, including the Hospital which it has operated since 2000.

In making its decision to discontinue the hospital services, Maryville Academy had to weigh the drain the hospital financial losses was having on its overall services. As chair of the Residential Services Committee, I regularly oversee and am very aware of the important work that Maryville's residential and family preservation programs perform for the community. These programs provide an array of services including residential group homes for adolescents, a homeless shelter for adolescent females, a crisis nursery, a healthcare center for medically fragile children, and the Catholic Youth Organization ("CYO") for sports activities. These services are utilized by 3,000 children and their families on average in any given year, and are vitally important to the communities served by Maryville. In light of the fact that other area hospitals are able to care for the children and adolescents provided inpatient behavioral health care at Maryville Behavioral Health Hospital, I think the decision to discontinue it to be able to sustain other necessary services was wise.

I urge the Board to approve the application.

Sincerely,



Agnes Piszczek
Chair, Maryville Academy Residential Services Committee
Maryville Board of Directors