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14-011

May 12, 2014

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield IL 62761

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MAY 13 2014

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

To Whom it May Concern:

What follows is a brief synopsis of what is happening at Maryville Behavioral Health Hospital. In summary, we believe that the best outcome for the patients, staff and public, is to improve Maryville Behavioral Health Hospital, instead of closing the hospital and putting more patients into an already inadequate system.

The Illinois Nurses Association represents 26 registered nurses at the hospital, which treats adolescent youths with acute psychiatric problems, many of whom are in danger of harming themselves or others. Many of the patients are also wards of the state. In March 2014, the hospital had patients as young as three years old. The reason that the nurses initially contacted the INA seeking to organize was because of their concerns about adequate staffing and safety. INA became the representative of the nurses in 2012. After winning the election and becoming the certified representative, INA has sought to negotiate a collective bargaining agreement. In 2013, INA filed an unfair labor practice charge, which included a charge of failure to bargain in good faith. The charge was settled with Region 13 of the NLRB and the employer. As part of the settlement agreement, the Employer agreed to bargain in good faith. The nurses went on a five-day ULP strike, starting March 10, 2014, returning to work the first scheduled shift after 11pm on March 14, 2014. The week after the strike, the INA was notified by Sister Catherine Ryan that the hospital intends to close.

We have grave concerns about what will happen to the current patients at Maryville Behavioral Health Hospital if the hospital is closed. Maryville Behavioral Health Hospital takes a significant number of highly specialized, highly acute DFCS patients. In FY2013, of 1722 DFCS Admission for Region A Acute Psych Facilities, 511 were to MBHH, 30% of the total and a large plurality (See Appendix A). The only institution to state unequivocally that it could accept these patients is Streamwood Behavioral Health Center. A University of Illinois Chicago report from 2009, prepared for DCFS, noted serious problems at Streamwood. The report cited revolving door admissions, wards that "were not consistently provided adequate and effective treatment services to address their identified mental health needs", numerous instances of self-harming, aggression towards other patients and staff, and inadequate staffing and oversight.

And while we hope the Streamwood has made progress since then, they are hardly alone in their deficiencies. Another of the hospitals where these patients would potentially be placed is Chicago Lakeshore Hospital. This is a hospital where numerous sexual assaults of patients have taken place, and according to report by the University of Illinois Chicago, a lack of supervision directly contributed to the sexual assaults. The Chicago Tribune did a story on the UIC report, noting the horrific abuse that took place, and how the lack of supervision by staff contributed to the incident:

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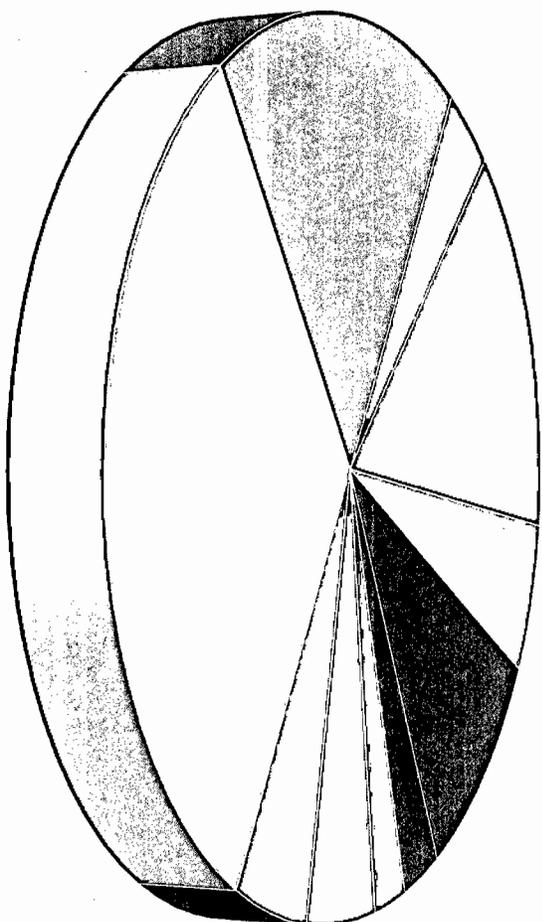
"In one of those incidents, state Department of Public Health inspectors cited the hospital for safety violations after an 11-year-old boy alleged that two male patients sodomized him in a bathroom that should have been locked and supervised by hospital staff. The state inspectors found the hospital failed to document whether staff made required 15-minute checks on the two alleged assailants, one of whom had been admitted with 'special observations orders for assault precautions.'" *Chicago Tribune, Report faults care of young psychiatric patients at Chicago Lakeshore Hospital, May 17, 2011*

We believe that the best thing for the patients, the public and the staff is an improved Maryville Behavioral Health Hospital, not putting additional patients into an already overloaded and inadequate system that allows for abuse and neglect of children. As such, our position is to recommend that the board deny the petition to close the hospital, or, at least, postpone a decision until further study is conducted.

Sincerely,

Alice Johnson
Executive Director
Illinois Nurses Association

FY 2013 DCFS Hospitalizations at Hospitals with Child and/or Adolescent Psychiatric Units



- Ann & Robert H Lurie Children's Hospital
- Presence Saint Mary of Nazareth Hospital
- Rush University Medical Center
- University of Illinois Hospital at Chicago
- Maryville Academy / Scott A. Nolan Center
- Aurora Chicago Lakeshore Hospital
- Presence St. Elizabeth's Hospital**
- UHS Hartgrove Hospital
- Roseland Community Hospital
- Others