

October 1st, 2014

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

RECEIVED

OCT 15 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

RE: In support of Project #14-043 St. Elizabeth's Hospital's replacement hospital in O'Fallon

Dear Ms. Avery,

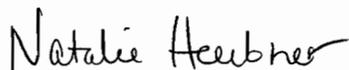
I'm writing in support of St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plans to build a replacement hospital in O'Fallon.

As a graduate student pursuing my master in anesthesia, I know that a modern, clean, and technologically up-to-date facility, such as the one proposed by St. Elizabeth's, would positively impact the O'Fallon community in many ways. This hospital would be able to provide life saving treatment to resident who would otherwise have to travel longer distances. This is critical, because in certain crises situations, minutes make a difference. Although I do not live in the O'Fallon area, I have many loved ones who reside in the surrounding area who would greatly benefit from the new facility.

Renovating the current facility in Belleville is not only expensive, but would take much longer, and would inconvenience patients and families. Building a new facility in O'Fallon is the right choice. This new facility will bring high quality health care to very deserving residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to state my support for this important project in the Metro East region. I hope you'll vote to approve the St. Elizabeth's O'Fallon hospital.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Natalie Heubner
RN, BSN, Anesthesia Student SIUE
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October 8, 2014

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OCT 15 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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

Re: Establishment of 10 bed Adult Acute Mental Illness Unit at Passavant Area Hospital

Dear Ms. Avery:

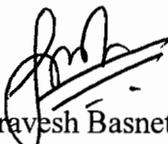
I am writing this letter in support of Passavant Area Hospital's proposed project to establish a 10-bed adult Acute Mental Illness (AMI) unit for care of psychiatric patients 18 years and older.

I am the Board Certified Psychiatrist who practices full time in Jacksonville, Illinois. I joined the Passavant Area Hospital in June, 2014. Currently, the hospital does not have an inpatient psychiatric unit to which I can admit my adult patients requiring acute mental illness services. If inpatient acute mental illness beds were available at Passavant Area Hospital, I would admit all my adult patients requiring the inpatient psychiatric care provided there to this new unit. Once my practice is established, I would anticipate referring 7 to 10 patients a month to the Passavant Area Hospital adult acute mental health unit.

At this time, there is a severe shortage of inpatient mental health needs of adult patients in our community. As a result, patients with psychiatric disorders are frequently referred or go on their own to Passavant Area Hospital emergency department for help. Our hospital staff is frequently overwhelmed by the volume of these patients who need to be evaluated, stabilized and held until a suitable psychiatric bed is available. Our patients frequently experience long delays and holds in our local hospital emergency department before the staff can locate a hospital to accept these patients and transfer them to a distant facility.

Having access to inpatient adult psychiatric beds at Passavant Area Hospital would significantly improve access, reduce delays and travel times for the patients with mental illness issues that we serve.

Sincerely,



Pravesh Basnet, MD
Center for Psychiatric Health