Elyssa's MISSION
CREATING A SAFER TODAY FOR OUR YOUTH®

*Elyssa's Mission is an organization that provides the resources to support at-risk teens and prevent suicide.*
*Elyssa's Mission is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization.*

*Elyssa's Mission is affiliated with Screening for Mental Health (www.mentalhealthscreening.org), the premier provider of mental health screening and programs.*

**Elyssa's Mission**
**900 Skokie Blvd., Suite #110**
**Northbrook, IL 60062**
**www.elyssasmission.org**

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January 29, 2016

Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, Illinois 62761

RE: US HealthVest's CON Application for a Behavioral Hospital in Northbrook

Dear Ms. Avery,

This letter is in support of US Healthvest's application for a behavioral hospital in Northbrook.

There is an unmet need in the surrounding area for specialized psychiatric services that is resulting in patients being deferred or denied treatment. Approval of US HealthVest's application will increase access to these important services.

Elyssa's Mission® provides resources to help prevent teen suicide. The Northrook-based organization was founded in 2006 in honor of Elyssa, a bright, gifted and outgoing girl who bravely but unsuccessfully battled posttraumatic stress disorder and depression. Elyssa's Mission provides hands-on support to area public and private schools and community organizations in order to educate students, staff and parents on how to recognize and assist those teens most at-risk. We have helped educate over 100,000 students since inception.

Elyssa's Mission funds and implements the evidence-based SOS Signs of Suicide® Prevention Program in close to 90 area-wide middle and high schools. The SOS program informs teens that depression is a treatable illness, and empowers them to seek help from a trusted adult if they are concerned about themselves or a friend. As a crucial next step, students complete the program's life-saving screening tool that enables school staff to identify at-risk students and link them to services.

We compile outcome data annually from our partnering schools in order to track referrals stemming from the SOS program. During the 2014-15 school year, out of 18,885 program participants, 1,053 students were ultimately referred on for further evaluation and/or services. Specifically, 355 students

were recommended for community-based mental health services, and **35** students were hospitalized. In fall of 2015, we brought the program to 41 schools (with many more on the horizon for winter and spring). Our current data reflects that, already this school year, 285 students have been referred on for community-based mental health services, and **46** students have been hospitalized. These numbers, while significant, do not begin to capture the mental health issues that emerge among students within all of our partnering schools, many of which make multiple referrals (in some cases 20-30, or even more, a year) to behavioral health hospitals.

Given our location, we partner with a number of middle and high schools in and around the Northbrook area (e.g. Field Middle School, Wood Oaks Junior High, Glenbrook North High School, Glenbrook South High School Attea Junior High, just to name a few). In addition, we frequently receive phone calls from local parents looking for resources--oftentimes inpatient psychiatric care. We have therefore seen firsthand the high need for quality inpatient treatment services for adolescents in Nortbrook.

I urge you to support the approval of US HealthVest's application for a behavioral hospital in Northbrook. There is a great need in the area to expand behavioral health services.

Thank you for your assistance in providing access to care.

Sincerely,

Jodie Segal

Jodie Segal
Director of Education
Elyssa's Mission

Police Department
One Olde Half Day Road
Lincolnshire, IL 60069-3035
847•883•9900
847•883•9909 (FAX)

Village of Lincolnshire

January 7, 2016

Mr. David Schoon
Assistant Director/Economic Development Coordinator
Village of Northbrook Development & Planning Services
1225 Cedar Lane
Northbrook, IL 60062

Re: US HealthVest's Proposed Behavioral Hospital in Northbrook

Dear Mr. Schoon,

I am writing this letter in support of US HealthVest's proposal to establish a behavioral hospital in Northbrook at 4201 Lake-Cook Road.

It seems like a day doesn't pass without local law enforcement encountering a citizen experiencing some type of mental health crisis. There is an unmet need in the surrounding area for specialized psychiatric services that is resulting in patients being deferred or denied treatment. Approval of US HealthVest's application will increase access to these important services.

I urge you to support the approval of US HealthVest's behavioral hospital and thank you for your assistance in providing access to much needed mental health care.

Sincerely,

Peter D. Kinsey
Chief of Police
Lincolnshire Police Department

C: Ms. Sandra Frum, Village President
Board of Trustees

Gateway Foundation | Alcohol & Drug Treatment

January 13, 2016

Mr. David Schoon
Assistant Director/Economic Development Coordinator
Village of Northbrook Development & Planning Services
1225 Cedar Lane
Northbrook, IL 60062

RE: US HealthVest's Proposed Behavioral Hospital in Northbrook

Dear Mr. Schoon,

This letter is in support of US HealthVest's proposed behavioral hospital in Northbrook.

There is an unmet need in the surrounding area for specialized psychiatric services that is resulting in patients being deferred or denied treatment. Approval of US HealthVest's application will increase access to these important services.

Gateway Foundation is Illinois' largest provider of Substance Use Disorder Treatment with programs in Lake Villa, Aurora and Chicago, as well as other locations downstate. As the Executive Director at Gateway Foundation's Lake Villa Treatment center we at times meet patients who require additional psychiatric stabilization and inpatient psychiatric placement. There are instances where bed availability is a barrier to patients receiving the services they need, or the distance to find an appropriate placement presents challenges for family members to be actively involved in the treatment process.

We at Gateway Foundation would welcome a new partner to serve the needs of persons struggling with mental illness in northern Illinois.

I urge you to support the approval of US HealthVest's behavioral hospital and thank you for your assistance in providing access to care.

Please feel free to contact me with requests for additional information. I can be reached at 847-356-8205, ext. 3366.

Sincerely,

Karen Wolownik Albert, LCSW

Karen Wolownik Albert, LCSW
Executive Director
Gateway Foundation-Lake Villa Treatment Center

cc: The Board of Trustees, Ms. Sandra Frum, Village President

Albany Care

901 Maple Avenue
Evanston, Illinois 60202
phone: 847.475.4000
fax: 847.475.8316

January [_8_], 2016

Mr. David Schoon
Assistant Director/Economic Development Coordinator
Village of Northbrook Development & Planning Services
1225 Cedar Lane
Northbrook, IL 60062

RE: US HealthVest's Proposed Behavioral Hospital in Northbrook

Dear Mr. Schoon,

This letter is in support of US Healthvest's proposed behavioral hospital in Northbrook.

There is an unmet need in the surrounding area for specialized psychiatric services that is resulting in patients being deferred or denied treatment. Approval of US HealthVest's application will increase access to these important services.

**Working for the largest residential mental health network in Illinois, soon to be certified as Specialized Mental Health Rehabilitation Centers, we receive referrals from every hospital inpatient psychiatric unit in Illinois and fully support the need for additional acute psychiatric services in the Northshore area.**

**The behavioral health and psychiatric needs of the mentally ill consumer in Illinois is alarmingly under-served with state budgetary cuts adversely affecting this already vulnerable population.**

I urge you to support the approval of US HealthVest's behavioral hospital and thank you for your assistance in providing access to care.

Sincerely,

Dennis Tossi
Administrator/Executive Director
Albany Care

cc: The Board of Trustees, Ms. Sandra Frum, Village President

abundant
LIFE
spiritual center

January 20, 2016

Mr. David Schoon
Assistant Director/Economic Development Coordinator
Village of Northbrook Development & Planning Services
1225 Cedar Lane
Northbrook, IL 60062

RE: US HealthVest's Proposed Behavioral Hospital in Northbrook

Dear Mr. Schoon,

This letter is in support of US Healthvest's proposed behavioral hospital in Northbrook.

There is an unmet need in the surrounding area for specialized psychiatric services that is resulting in patients being deferred or denied treatment. Approval of US HealthVest's application will increase access to these important services.

Based on the experience of some of our community members and their families, as well as the community at large, I am aware of the need for inpatient psychiatric care.

I encourage you to support the approval of US HealthVest's behavioral hospital and thank you for your assistance in providing access to care.

Sincerely,

Rev. Carol A. Saunders
Minister, Abundant Life Spiritual Center
Deerfield, IL

cc: The Board of Trustees, Ms. Sandra Frum, Village President

*MARK D. PARISI, PSY.D. & ASSOCIATES, P.C.*

January 10, 2016

Mr. David Schoon
Assistant Director/Economic Development Coordinator
Village of Northbrook Development & Planning Services
1225 Cedar Lane
Northbrook, IL 60062

RE: US HealthVest's Proposed Behavioral Hospital in Northbrook

Dear Mr. Schoon,

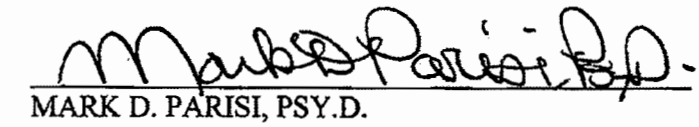
This letter is in support of US Healthvest's proposed behavioral hospital in Northbrook.

There is an unmet need in the surrounding area for specialized psychiatric services that is resulting in patients being deferred or denied treatment. Approval of US HealthVest's application will increase access to these important services.

As the owner of a large, group private practice in Mount Prospect, I have had frequent occasion to work with Chicago Behavioral Health Hospital in Des Plaines and feel as though that the Northwest and Northshore Suburbs are underserved by hospitals with an exclusive behavioral healthcare focus.

I urge you to support the approval of US HealthVest's behavioral hospital and thank you for your assistance in providing access to care.

Sincerely,



MARK D. PARISI, PSY.D.
Licensed Clinical Psychologist 071-005598
Administrator / Owner, MARK D. PARISI, PSY.D. & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

cc: The Board of Trustees, Ms. Sandra Frum, Village President

**800 E. Northwest Highway, Suite 106, Mount Prospect, Illinois 60056**
**Tel. (847) 909-9858 / Fax. (847) 299-4952 / www.drparisiandassociates.com**

# LINCOLNSHIRE-RIVERWOODS
# FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

*EST. 1940*

January 5, 2016

Mr. David Schoon
Assistant Director/Economic Development Coordinator
Village of Northbrook Development & Planning Services
1225 Cedar Lane
Northbrook, IL 60062

RE: US HealthVest's Proposed Behavioral Hospital in Northbrook

Dear Mr. Schoon,

This letter is in support of US Healthvest's proposed behavioral hospital in Northbrook.

There is an unmet need in the surrounding area for specialized psychiatric services that is resulting in patients being deferred or denied treatment. Approval of US HealthVest's application will increase access to these important services.

I urge you to support the approval of US HealthVest's behavioral hospital and thank you for your assistance in providing access to care.

Sincerely,

*Tom Krueger*

Tom Krueger
Fire Chief
Lincolnshire-Riverwoods Fire Protection District
115 Schelter Road
Lincolnshire, IL 60069
847-634-2512
tkrueger@lrfpd.org

cc: The Board of Trustees, Ms. Sandra Frum, Village President

January 7, 2016

Mr. David Schoon
Assistant Director/Economic Development Coordinator
Village of Northbrook Development & Planning Services
1225 Cedar Lane
Northbrook, IL 60062

RE: US HealthVest's Proposed Behavioral Hospital in Northbrook

Dear Mr. Schoon,

This letter is in support of US Healthvest's proposed behavioral hospital in Northbrook.

There is an unmet need in the surrounding area for specialized psychiatric services that is resulting in patients being deferred or denied treatment. Approval of US HealthVest's application will increase access to these important services.

Mathers Clinic is a Mental Health and Substance Abuse Clinic with 4 locations. Our Psychiatrists and Clinicians provide services to children, adolescents, adults and seniors. Inpatient hospitalizations are sometimes the only safe choice for our clients and their families. Hospitals often do not have beds available or do not believe they have the resources to handle complex cases. In trying to hospitalize clients I have needed to contact multiple facilities and spend many hours attempting to find a hospital bed and end up with nothing and sometimes being expected to wait several days. This is not an option in emergency situations. Behavioral Hospitals provide the safety and experience needed for this population.

Mathers Clinic encourages you to support the approval of US HealthVest's behavioral hospital and thank you for your assistance in providing access to care.

Sincerely,

Renee Shopp RN, CADC
Practice Manager
Mathers Clinic

cc: The Board of Trustees, Ms. Sandra Frum, Village President

MATHERS CLINIC
The Center for Counseling Services
Elgin: 585 North Tollgate Road, Suite E – Elgin, Illinois 60123
www.themathersclinic.com/opiates
Fax: 847.628.6064
847.462.6099

THE JOSSELYN CENTER
Excellence in Community Behavioral Health

405 Central Avenue
Northfield, IL 60093
847/441-5600
Fax 847/441-7968
www.josselyn.org

Susan B. Resko, M.B.A.
President

January13, 2016

Mr. David Schoon
Assistant Director/Economic Development Coordinator
Village of Northbrook Development & Planning Services
1225 Cedar Lane
Northbrook, IL 60062

RE: US HealthVest's Proposed Behavioral Hospital in Northbrook

Dear Mr. Schoon,

This letter is in support of US Healthvest's proposed behavioral hospital in Northbrook.

There is an unmet need in the surrounding area for specialized psychiatric services that is resulting in patients being deferred or denied treatment. Approval of US HealthVest's application will increase access to these important services.

In Illinois, 340,000 adults had serious thoughts of suicide at least once during the previous year of being surveyed. Suicide is the third leading cause of death among teens. 75% of the Josselyn Center's services are provided to Medicaid recipients, yet we have paltry few resources for low income community members. Community mental health and access to resources is as important as good schools, safe roads and quality education for our children. I welcome the addition of this much needed resource to our community.

I urge you to support the approval of US HealthVest's behavioral hospital and thank you for your assistance in providing access to care.

Sincerely,

Susan B. Resko
President
The Josselyn Center

cc: The Board of Trustees, Ms. Sandra Frum, Village President

THE JOSSELYN CENTER
Excellence in Community Behavioral Health

405 Central Avenue
Northfield, IL 60093
847/441-5600
Fax 847/441-7968
www.josselyn.org

Susan B. Resko, M.B.A.
President

January 13, 2016

Mr. David Schoon
Assistant Director/Economic Development Coordinator
Village of Northbrook Development & Planning Services
1225 Cedar Lane
Northbrook, IL 60062

RE: US HealthVest's Proposed Behavioral Hospital in Northbrook

Dear Mr. Schoon,

This letter is in support of US Healthvest's proposed behavioral hospital in Northbrook. Approval of US HealthVest's application will increase access to patients in the northern Chicagoland suburbs.

As a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who currently is employed as the Clinical Director at The Josselyn Center, and formerly employed as a Manager of Hospital Social Work and Crisis Intervention in the Emergency Room in a North Shore Hospital System, I strongly believe we are in need of inpatient psychiatric units for Medicaid, children and adolescents as well as a specialized unit for senior adults. Currently, some of our clients when their children need admission and they have Medicaid, they are often admitted to hospitals whose location is not convenient. There are adult psychiatric units, but few that I know of that have geriatric psychiatric units, one in Chicago and one in a northwestern suburb.

I urge you to support the approval of US HealthVest's behavioral hospital and thank you for your consideration in providing access to care.

Sincerely,

Suzan Eckstein, LCSW

Suzan Eckstein, LCSW
Program Director of Clinical Services
The Josselyn Center

cc: The Board of Trustees, Ms. Sandra Frum, Village President

January 6, 2016

Mr. David Schoon
Assistant Director/Economic Development Coordinator
Village of Northbrook Development & Planning Services
1225 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, Il 60062
RE: US Health Vest's Proposed Behavioral Hospital in Northbrook

Dear Mr. Schoon,

This letter is in support of US Health Vest's proposed behavioral hospital in Northbrook.

There is an unmet need in the surrounding area for specialized psychiatric services that is resulting in patients being deferred or denied treatment. Approval of US Health Vest's application will increase access to these important services.

Persons who live in Northbrook and the surrounding communities often have trouble accessing psychiatric services near their home because of the lack of inpatient beds in the area. Frequently patients from Northbrook and surrounding communities have to be transferred to hospitals far from their homes because there are no open beds in the area. Highland Park Hospital has a small unit for adolescents and young adults. Glenbrook has no inpatient psychiatric services and neither does Skokie Hospital. Evanston Hospital has a small adult unit and is usually full.

The need for additional inpatient psychiatric beds is critical. There are very limited child/ adolescent beds as well as even more limited geriatric beds in metro Chicago. Of course, there is always a need for adult beds. Often I have to transfer a patient who lives in the northern suburbs to a hospital in Oak Lawn, Naperville, or Glendale Heights. This puts additional stress on the patient as well as the family. The patient is far from home and the family are often unable to visit because of the great distance they have to travel to get to the hospital that the patient has been transferred to.

I have been working with US Health Vest's local hospital, Chicago Behavioral Hospital since they opened. I frequently transfer patients to them when our beds are full or if a patient's insurance is out of network for us. They have worked very hard to develop a strong collaborative relationship with us and we look forward to continuing to work with them in the future.

I urge you to support the approval of US Health Vest's behavioral hospital and thank you for your assistance in providing access to care.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Traub PsyD, RN

Kathleen Traub PsyD, Rn
Clinical Psychologist/ Crisis Team
Advocate Lutheran General Hospital
CC: The Board of Trustees, Ms. Sandra Frum, Village President