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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Mr. Mike Constantino
Project Review Section
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street – 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Mr. Constantino:

I am writing in opposition to Northwestern Medicine's intention of moving mental health patients' hospitalization services for DeKalb County residents to Central DuPage County Hospital in the Chicago suburb of Winfield.

When Kishwaukee Hospital was built, better in-patient behavioral health care was a prevalent citizens' request. The community was given a minimally staffed six-bed unit – only to have it dismantled after three years and subsequently closed down. The closure, granted by the State Health Review Board, was allowed over objections at the time from numerous health care providers, law enforcement and other concerned residents of the county.

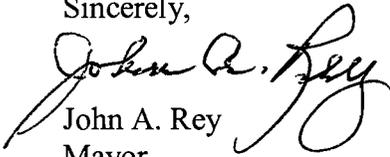
Serving residents' mental health needs outside the county, creates several problems and exacerbates a patient's condition that has caused the crisis being treated:

1. Patients taken to a far off hospital removes them from care by their attending physician and psychiatrist, therapists, clergy and family members.
2. Immediate family, loved ones and other supportive individuals are forced to travel long distances to visit the patient.
3. Heavy traffic, during visiting hours, adds to the challenge of the trip for visitation by members of a patient's support network.
4. The patient becomes isolated from his or her support network. Not keeping the support network in tact is not conducive to recovery and could even prolong the time they are hospitalized – adding to the treatment expense.

5. This treatment model does not present a healthy solution nor positive outcome for the patients, families and others in the patient's support network.

Thus, I express my opposition to the proposed transfer plan, serving DeKalb County residents at the Central DuPage Hospital. I am supportive of returning behavioral health inpatient care facilities to DeKalb County as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



John A. Rey
Mayor

