DeKalb County Sheriff's Office

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"TO SERVE AND PROTECT"

ROGER A. SCOTT, SHERIFF
GARY DUMDIE, CHIEF DEPUTY

October 23, 2015

RECEIVED
OCT 27 2015
HEALTH FACILITIES & SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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

Ms. Avery:

I am DeKalb County Sheriff Roger Scott, and am writing concerning the change of ownership exemption application (E-007-15) for Kishwaukee Community Hospital in DeKalb Illinois, with Northwest Memorial Healthcare. I do support this merger; however the purpose of my letter is to encourage as part of the transfer of ownership plan that onsite mental health services including patient beds be a responsibility of Northwestern Memorial Healthcare should the transfer of ownership be approved.

Speaking for the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office and from a law enforcement perspective I believe the DeKalb County Community needs the local availability of onsite treatment for those with mental health issues.

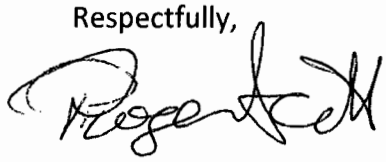
Prior to 2009 we did have this availability through the Center for Behavioral Health of Kishwaukee Hospital. In 2009, or shortly thereafter, it was discontinued. The need for professional analysis, treatment, and follow-up locally is essential and has not decreased. It is my professional opinion that the individuals that DeKalb County law enforcement encounters do not get the follow-up or proper treatment when sent to out of county facilities. Those individuals fall through the cracks, or do not have the ability or desire to travel long distances and therefore they end up in repetitive contact with law enforcement. Many eventually end up incarcerated in the County Jail, where treatment and space is limited, and is available only because of funding received through the Mental Health Board.

Please review the statistics below as indicators of the specific areas that my deputies, and other officers the Sheriff's Office dispatches for are involved throughout the year here in DeKalb County. These statistics do not include the City of DeKalb, Northern Illinois University, or Sandwich.

2014		2015 (to date)	
Mental Health related	187	Mental Health related	121
Suicide - actual	7	Suicide - actual	2
Suicide attempt	120	Suicide attempt	105

I reiterate that I do not object to the proposed change of hospital ownership, but do feel there is an urgent mental health service need that requires immediate attention.

Respectfully,



Sheriff Roger Scott
DeKalb County, Illinois

RS/jw