

**Re: application for merger between Kish Health System and Northwestern Medicine
(E-007-15)**

Saturday, October 24, 2015

Mike Constantino, Supervisor
Project Review Section,
Illinois Health Facilities and Service Review Board
525 West Jefferson St. 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

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OCT 28 2015

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Mr Constantino,

I am one of psychiatrists in private practice in Sycamore. I have been in practice in this area for almost ten years. I have ties to the Dekalb Community since 1996.

As you know an application for merger between Kish Health System (KHS) and Northwestern Medicine (NWM) (E-007-15) has been forwarded to the State Board for approval. I attended a meeting on October 21st on whether to send a letter (exhibit 1) by the Board of Supervisors of DeKalb County stressing the need for mental health services in our county. I was neither consulted nor involved in writing the letter drafted by the Board. My presence at the meeting of October 21st was at the request of friends who wanted one of the local psychiatrists to be present in the absence of Dr Thomas Kirts, who sits on the Dekalb County Mental Health Board. At the meeting, different members of the Board of Supervisors of DeKalb County stated that they were contacted by the leadership of Kish Health System saying that *"if this letter is forwarded it will reduce the chance of the merger going through"* and had requested the Board not approve the letter. Neither the Board members, nor the KHS official at the meeting elaborated on why a letter requesting more emphasis on mental health care would derail the merger.

You are also aware of the fact that Advocate Health Care had offered to buy KHS, but KHS leadership has chosen to merge with NWM and according to the press, KHS will be handed over for \$0 exactly, despite the fact that it is appraised at \$330 million dollars. It is hard to imagine that Advocate has made the KHS leadership a lower offer. According to the press, Advocate had stated that KHS was "top heavy". Concerned citizens have requested more transparency of the decision making process and have been ignored.

The statement made by KHS leadership makes me wonder that, if the mere mention of Mental Health Care "offends" NWM, to the point that they would not want to go through with the merger, would they be able to flourish in a county where mental health care is on top of everyone's wish list? (Including Mr Pietrowski the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors who it appears was "persuaded" by KHS not to send a letter to you.) (Exhibit 2). You would expect NWM who just got the deal of a lifetime from our generous community to be

proactive in reaching out to the community and identifying what the expectations and the concerns are.

After the frenzy displayed by KHS leadership in the last few days, there is at the very least an appearance of impropriety. As a concerned taxpayer, I respectfully request that the merger between KHS and NWM be examined with extra care, for full compliance with all laws and regulations, especially Statute 42 U.S.C. § 1320a-7b.

Many thanks,

Respectfully,

Mardjan Foroutan,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mardjan Foroutan". The signature is written in black ink and features a long, sweeping horizontal flourish at the end.

(Exhibit 2)

On Thursday, October 22, 2015 12:30 AM, Mark Pietrowski <markpietrowski@gmail.com> wrote:

Barry and Eileen,

I wanted to reach out to both of you about the vote to remove the letter from the agenda tonight.

First let me say I firmly support having mental health beds and real mental and behavioral health services here in DeKalb County. As a Board we have also taken a stand against having mentally ill in our jail over getting proper treatment. The county is also in the process of establishing a Mental Health court.

By not stating that the County was in favor of the merger, the omission seemed to imply that the County was not in favor and the only reason to send a letter to that board which will vote to approve the merger is whether we are for or against in my mind. Otherwise it would be more appropriate to write a letter to the editor or pass a resolution that can be sent to Kish Health and Northwestern.

An alternative letter was presented to Misty as an option to introduce which would state the board was in favor of the merger but wanted to have mental and behavioral services here in the county. Due to the lack of time and the fact Mistys committee voted on a different letter she was not in favor of taking a stand for the merger.

This issue of Mental Health services in our community hospital is not over and it will be discussed by our board and I want the board to have facts, figures, and a comprehensive plan we can move forward with in our pursuit. I want to work with and coordinate with the mental health board and I also want to discuss these issues with Kish Health and Northwestern as I believe they have a right to go in front of the Board to present and be questioned.

We already know Kish Health has eliminated their beds and have no plans to change that decision. Thus, I believe the best chance is to allow the merger to play out and if approved, approach Northwestern with facts and also look into public/private partnership opportunities and find out what it would take to get the services we need in DeKalb County.

I have a tremendous amount of respect for both of you and wanted to explain the situation. I know tonight Barry you mentioned you and your group being against the merger while I think it could be a good thing for our community.

The mental health board is writing a letter to the board deciding the merger and I think the county should enter into this issue after the merger is decided.

Mark

Mark Pietrowski, Jr.,
Chairman
Tracy Jones,
Vice Chairman

(Exhibit 1)



Legislative Center 200 N. Main Street Sycamore, Illinois 60178 (815) 895-7189

DeKalb County

October 21, 2015

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

To Mr. Constantino:

On behalf of the DeKalb County Board, I write this letter in response to the public notice concerning the change of ownership exemption application (E-007-15) for Kishwaukee Community Hospital in DeKalb, IL. The applicants are Northwestern Memorial Healthcare of Chicago, IL and KishHealth System and Kishwaukee Community Hospital of DeKalb, IL.

The DeKalb County Board supports and encourages any action by the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board which would strengthen mental health services to the citizens of DeKalb County. Specifically, the County Board seeks hospital inpatient mental health care for appropriate individuals. The current alternatives available to our citizens are that of transporting individuals out-of-the-county to receive vital services or, in many cases, transporting individuals to the local jail. Neither alternative is desirable. In addition, a hospital facility is needed in our County that can attract psychiatrists to practice in our area and provide the professional level treatment that is needed.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit our comments.

Sincerely,

Mark Pietrowski, Jr.
County Board Chairman



E-007-15

DEKALB POLICE DEPARTMENT
700 W. Lincoln Highway
DeKalb, IL 60115
815/748-8400 · cityofdekalb.com

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OCT 28 2015

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

October 14, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Constantino:

On behalf of the DeKalb Police Department I want to express my concern regarding the current state of mental health services in our community, especially those that are exigent or crisis based. I hope to facilitate a greater appreciation for the challenges that public safety entities face regarding members of our community that are afflicted with behavioral health challenges.

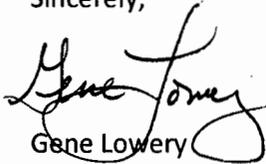
With Northwestern Medicines' acquisition of Kishwaukee Hospital we hope for the opportunity to improve mental health services to individuals who are a threat to themselves or others, especially during incidents involving the police. The City of DeKalb has a population of approximately 44,000 and is host to Northern Illinois University that can bring an additional 15,000 or more residents into our community annually. In calendar year 2014 our police officers responded to 254 individuals in some type of mental health crisis, of which 178 were suicidal subjects. Many of these cases have resulted in critical incidents where a number of police resources were required to respond, citizens were put at risk, and officers injured.

For example, in one case our officers were attempting to locate a suicidal subject believed to be armed, he was found driving a motor vehicle, a pursuit ensued that placed all parties involved and our community at risk, and ultimately he was taken into custody at which time he continued his suicidal ideations. The police facilitated his involuntary commitment, he was evaluated by psychiatric professionals at the hospital, he was released the same day and later that evening he committed suicide. Our officers are often completing their reports regarding involuntary commitments, while the patients are being released from our local emergency room.

We recognize the need and support the return of a behavioral health inpatient care unit to Kishwaukee Hospital. However, if current evaluation and treatment practices continue our emergency rooms and criminal justice system will remain a revolving door for the mentally ill, our demands for service will continue to be extended beyond our resources, and an inevitable tragedy will occur. Our local jails have become the dumping ground for the mentally ill and it exposes those who are challenged to an even greater risk.

In closing, I am an advocate for changing our current psychiatric evaluation and treatment model currently implemented within our community and strongly encourage the return of an inpatient behavioral health unit to Kishwaukee Hospital.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gene Lowery". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Gene Lowery
Chief of Police



October 26, 2015

Illinois Health Facilities
& Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St. 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Christi Glarenas
511 W. 2nd St. DeKalb Co.
Genoa, IL 60135

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OCT 28 2015

Dear Courtney Avery, Board Administrator

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES-REVIEW BOARD

As a member of DeKalb County Citizens for Better Mental Health Care, I ask that the timely merger of Northwestern Memorial Health Care and Kish Health System become an opportunity to reopen the six-bed behavioral health unit at Kishwaukee Community Hospital. When the hospital filed a request to shut it down, there could not have been an honest, realistic assessment of needs. My son, Sam, was treated numerous times in the emergency room and released without a viable treatment plan and quality care. (2008)

The diverse needs for mental health treatment are evident if we consider the number of suicides and drug overdoses, struggling students who would benefit from an early diagnosis, veterans from all theaters of war, inmates from our county jail, homeless individuals, and people with chronic mental illness.

What a tremendous opportunity we have presently where the reassessment of health resources within a community that boasts a university and many struggling community agencies that are touched by mental illness could be bolstered.

Care should be local. Whatever increased costs are of concern, the improved welfare of all county citizens - general welfare that is a duty of government - is the right thing to do.
Thank you!

Sincerely,

Christi Slavenas

810 Charles Street
DeKalb, IL 60115
October 26, 2015

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

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Dear Ms. Avery:

Please restore a behavioral health inpatient
care facility to DeKalb County as soon as possible.

I make this request as a DeKalb County resident
who has lived with the ravages of mental illness
upon my husband and our son and its effects upon
our daughters as we have struggled to maintain
a family.

Mental illness is a deadly disease like cancer.
One can medicate with proper medical supervision.
Hopefully, one can recognize behavioral changes
and mood swings that indicate stronger medical /
psychiatric help is needed. Lastly, one must have
access to a quickly reachable facility within one's
county for evaluation and help before a major episode
occurs requiring weeks of hospitalization.

Please restore a behavioral health care facility
to DeKalb County as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,
Kathleen Dust

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OCT 28 2015

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

20 October 2015

Subject: Inpatient Mental Health Care at Kishwaukee Hospital

Dear Board Administrator Ms. Courtney Avery:

It has come to my attention that the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board is considering an application from the KishHealth System and Northwestern Memorial Healthcare to allow NMHC to acquire KishHealth.

A handful of years ago, Kishwaukee Hospital closed down their small behavioral health unit and no longer admits patients for mental health treatment. What they do instead is send these patients to any hospital with an open bed, often times rendering no treatment themselves. At the September 24th public hearing Northwestern Western Region Vice President Mike Vivoda provided a solution that included sending patients to their Central DuPage Hospital in Winfield, that would have ample space for patients. Although I commend Mr. Vivoda on addressing the issue, his solution does not do enough.

Last May, I was admitted into Kishwaukee Hospital while undergoing a mental health crisis. I waited for 4 hours to see any mental health care employee, and once I did they did little to restore me to a better state of mind, they simply evaluated me and left. They made the decision to send me to another hospital. However, this made my anxiety rise to dangerous levels inducing my fight or flight mechanism. I fought them tooth and nail on the issue until they allowed me to be released to my mother's care. This was a terrible decision by hospital staff, for I was in no condition to leave a supervised setting and since I am 22 years old, I left my mother that same day after receiving no treatment from hospital staff.

I am now much better, and I serve as a mental health advocate at Northern Illinois University. I am the president of a student organization whose purpose is to raise awareness for students living with mental illness and encourage help seeking behavior. How am I as a student leader to encourage help seeking behavior if our students know that if they have a serious crisis they cannot go to the only hospital in the area and receive adequate treatment? Students know that if they go to Kishwaukee Hospital, they will just be shipped somewhere else, even farther away from their support system so they refuse to go. In order to make NIU a safer place for students living with mental illness Northwestern Memorial Healthcare must agree to reopen inpatient mental health care in Kishwaukee Hospital. Residents of the community and students at NIU should not be shipped off to an unknown area because they are simply seeking help. This has a very negative effect on the recovery process and I am opposed to the application for the Certificate of Exemption for Project No. E-0007-15 unless it is amended to keep mental health care in this community. Please listen to the residents and health care professionals that state that this current practice is not adequate for our community.

Sincerely



Kevin Hannon

930 Greenbrier Road Apartment 13

Dekalb IL, 60115

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

October 20, 2015

Subject: Inpatient Mental Health Care at Kishwaukee Hospital

Dear Board Administrator Ms. Courtney Avery:

It has come to my attention that the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board is considering an application from the KishHealth System and Northwestern Memorial Healthcare to allow NMHC to acquire KishHealth.

A few years ago Kishwaukee Hospital closed down its behavioral health six-bed unit and no longer admits patients to its hospital for mental health treatment, instead they send emergency room patients to other hospitals outside DeKalb County around northern Illinois or end up releasing them back into the community prematurely. As a family member of a patient that was prematurely released into the care of our mother, I find this very disheartening and irritating. The fact that my sister, the patient, was going to be sent an hour away added more worry and fear to what we were already feeling just knowing that she had to be a patient in the first place. To add to that many of my friends have attempted suicide because they were prematurely released from care. At the Sept. 24 public hearing Northwestern Western Region VP Mike Vivoda announced that their Central DuPage Hospital in Winfield, Illinois will have additional space for mental health patients due to an expansion from 15 to 48 beds and those people seeking mental health treatment at Kishwaukee Hospital can be sent to Central DuPage. This is about an hour away from Kishwaukee and for families of the patient and the patient themselves, that can be difficult to handle.

This is not beneficial to the patient who would be removed from his or her community support system, including local doctors, counselors, clergy, friends or family and be sent some distance away for days or even weeks. This would be added stress that could be detrimental and counteractive to the care that they need. So I would ask the board to recommend that Northwestern restore the inpatient beds for behavioral health care at Kishwaukee Hospital in DeKalb and not continue the practice of transporting or sending patients a great distance for treatment. For these reasons I am opposed to the application for the Certificate of Exemption for Project No. E-007-15 unless it is amended to keep mental health care in this community.

Sincerely,



Haley Peterson
1230 Blackhawk rd
DeKalb, IL 60115

10/20/15

Subject: Inpatient Mental Health Care at Kishwaukee Hospital

Board Administrator Ms. Courtney Avery:

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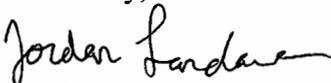
HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

It has come to my attention that the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board is considering an application from the KishHealth System and Northwestern Memorial HealthCare to allow NMHC to acquire KishHealth.

A few years ago Kishwaukee Hospital closed down its mental health unit, which held six beds. Kishwaukee no longer admits patients to its hospital for mental health treatment. Instead they send emergency room patients to other hospitals outside DeKalb County, or end up releasing them back into the community prematurely. At a September 24th public hearing, Northwestern Western Region VP Mike Vivoda announced that their Central DuPage Hospital in Winfield, Illinois will have additional space for mental health patients as they have expanded their mental health ward from 15 beds to 48. If necessary, mental health patients can be transferred from Kishwaukee to Central DuPage.

Regardless of these changes, it still inconveniences patients admitted to Kishwaukee with mental health crises. Central Dupage Hospital is an hour away from Kishwaukee. The lengthy commute makes it difficult for the patient to receive support from family, friends, and community members. In a time of mental instability, a patient's support system is everything, and without it the ordeal becomes significantly more stressful for everyone. I ask that the board at Northwestern restore the inpatient beds for mental health care at Kishwaukee Hospital in DeKalb. For these reasons I am opposed to the application for the Certificate of Exemption for Project No. E-007-15 unless it is amended to keep mental health care accessible in this community.

Sincerely,



Jordan Landauer
823 Greenbrier Rd.
DeKalb, IL, 60115

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OCT 28 2015

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

October 20, 2015

Subject: Inpatient Mental Health Care at Kishwaukee Hospital

Dear Board Administrator Ms. Courtney Avery:

It has come to my attention that the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board is considering an application from the KishHealth System and Northwestern Memorial Healthcare to allow NMHC to acquire KishHealth.

A few years ago Kishwaukee Hospital closed down its behavioral health six-bed unit and no longer admits patients to its hospital for mental health treatment, instead they send emergency room patients to other hospitals outside DeKalb County around northern Illinois or end up releasing them back into the community prematurely. At the Sept. 24 public hearing Northwestern Western Region VP Mike Vivoda announced that their Central DuPage Hospital in Winfield, Illinois will have additional space for mental health patients due to an expansion from 15 to 48 beds and those people seeking mental health treatment at Kishwaukee Hospital can be sent to Central DuPage.

This is not beneficial to the patient who would be removed from his or her community support system, including local doctors, counselors, clergy, friends or family and be sent some distance away for days or even weeks. We have many members of this community, 15% of DeKalb County are NIU students. We have students that come from all around the United States and farther, since NIU doesn't have an inpatient service where are people suppose to go? We as members of this community should not have to be moved to receive the proper care, we deserve. So I would ask the board to recommend that Northwestern restore the inpatient beds for behavioral health care at Kishwaukee Hospital in DeKalb and not continue the practice of transporting or sending patients a great distance for treatment. For these reasons I am opposed to the application for the Certificate of Exemption for Project No. E-007-15 unless it is amended to keep mental health care in this community.

Sincerely,



Natalie Fleming
1230 Blackhawk rd.
DeKalb, IL
60115

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OCT 28 2015

10/20/15
Inpatient Mental Health care at Kishwaukee Hospital

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Dear Board Administrator Ms, Courtney Avery

It has come to my attention, that the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board is considering an application from the KishHealth system and Northwestern Memorial Health. A few years ago Kishwaukee closed down its behavioral health six bed unit and no longer admits patients to its hospital for mental health treatment. Instead they send emergency room patients to other hospitals outside dekalb county.

NAMI, National Alliance on Mental Illnesses, has proven specifying that mental psychology is pseudoscience, there is no evident treatment for mental problems if we give them more drugs to sedate them we are making their condition worse and causing unnecessary trauma as many mentally health patients get fixated with their surroundings.

Furthermore, Representative Murphy recently advocated on February 2015, in Washington D.C that only a small portion of \$130 billion issued by the federal government gets used by families or communities with mentally health related conditions . From taking Ahrs 200 Disability in Society at Northern Illinois University, and visiting families with mentally challenged kids, i have been told me that people shush them away, make hand signals as if they are about to recieve a deadly disease and many other vivid instances like these happen each and every second the clock ticks.

In addition to all these circumstances Matt Sato, Executive Director of National Directors would prefer to have mental health reforms to be very strong. Which basically is saying that to make appointments, therapy sessions and counseling more tougher to access for the patient with prior authorizations and referrals which are just useless headaches for people who are fighting with their own minds.

I humbly agree with Dr. Ron Manderscheid, Executive Director of the National Association of County Behavioral Health and Development Disability Directors established on March 2015 that we need to change our language and views about mental health. Mental health should be given importance and identification in every hospital which can lead to quicker recoveries and less traumatic stress.

Overall I'd just like to respectfully say that I find it quite odd that both Dr.Menderscheid and Representative Murphy expressed interests in helping out people with mental challenges and yet today, towards the end of this year we are witnessing such hasteful injustice. As it truly is not beneficial to the patient who would be removed from his or her community support system, which includes local doctors, counsellors, clergy and ofcourse friends and family Being sent away for several days or yet several weeks can totally destroy their levels of these patients So I would dearly ask the board to recommend that Northwestern respectfully restores the inpatient beds for Behavioral Healthcare at Kishwaukee hospital in DeKalb.

Sincerely,



Salmaan S. Chaudhri
383 Gilbert Drive Rm332, DeKalb, Illinois 60115