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DONNA CHIARIELLO SANTORO, LCSW
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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

July 22, 2014

Mr. Dale Galassie
Chairman
Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

RE: Application for Chicago Behavioral Health Hospital - Certificate of Exemption for the Change of Ownership for Maryville Behavioral Health Hospital in Des Plaines, Illinois

Dear Mr. Galassie:

This letter is in support of Chicago Behavioral Health Hospital's Application for Certificate of Exemption for the Change of Ownership for Maryville Behavioral Health Hospital.

A great need continues for specialized inpatient acute care for children and adolescents. A need also exists for the adult and seniors population. Currently, it is a challenge to find an appropriate bed when a patient is in crisis resulting in patients being held in emergency departments, traveling long distances, and being separated from their family support systems while in crisis.

Due to the limited availability of other hospital providers to accept DCFS wards, and the many children who are in need of more acute hospital services we need Chicago Behavioral Health Hospital to become certified. This will greatly aide in stabilization and recovery services for our SASS populations.

The parent company of Chicago Behavioral Health Hospital, US HealthVest, has substantial experience in operating behavioral health hospitals and will continue serving the behavioral health needs of the community with a special emphasis on children and adolescents.

I urge you to support the approval of Chicago Behavioral Health Hospital application for the Change of Ownership for Maryville Behavioral Health Hospital and thank you for your assistance in allowing us to continue to provide access to care for children and adolescents who need inpatient psychiatric care.

Sincerely,

Donna Chiariello Santoro, LCSW
Chief Executive Officer

DCS/lj

