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Rebuilding lives... Rekindling spirits... Renewing hope...

MARYVILLE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH HOSPITAL

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July 24, 2014

E-016-14

Kathryn J. Olson, 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 Ms. Olson,

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.

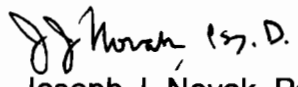
As the administrator of Maryville Behavioral Health Hospital, I am keenly aware of the continued need for specialized inpatient acute psychiatric care for children and adolescents. Our Intake and clinical team have witnessed first-hand the challenges local SASS agencies have experienced trying to find an appropriate bed when a patient is in a state of crisis, often resulting in patients being held in community hospital emergency departments, traveling long distances, and being separated from their family support systems while in crisis. This problem of access to inpatient psychiatric care is particularly evident for our most vulnerable child and adolescent population who are either wards of the state or have limited options or resources.

Maryville Behavioral Health Hospital has existed as a safety net for children and adolescents who are most in need due to their life circumstances. Our inpatient services have provided these children and adolescents with a path toward recovery and opportunity to grow. Unfortunately, with the closure of our hospital brings the potential for a gap in the availability these unique services and risk of further erosion in access to vital treatment for patients we have served for almost 15 years.

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 continuing the mission of providing access to services for children and adolescents who need inpatient psychiatric care.

Respectfully,



Joseph J. Novak, Psy.D.
CEO
Maryville Behavioral Health Hospital