



September 13, 2010

Mr. Michael Constantino, Supervisor, Project Review Section  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson Street (2nd Floor)  
Springfield, Illinois 62761

**RECEIVED**  
SEP 16 2010  
HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

RE: Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital, Barrington 10-037 Application

Dear Mr. Constantino:

Thank you for speaking with me regarding the Advocate Good Shepherd application to discontinue its 14 AMI unit. I understand that based on the tentative agenda for the September 21, 2010 IHF Review Board meeting, this request does not meet State Board criteria and the decision will be subject to Board action.

As the Executive Director of the McHenry County Mental Health Board, I am conveying our Board's concern of the overall trend of AMI closures to this region. Last year, due to the inability to recruit and retain medical leadership Centegra Health System had to discontinue its adolescent unit and is still in the process of recruiting additional medical leadership to re-open the beds for adult services. This year, Good Shepherd is faced with closure action due to challenges of medical leadership. This does not diminish the need for access to inpatient care and access to an appropriate level of community based psychiatric care.

We have met with leadership from Good Shepherd and have been informed of their aggressive recruitment plans which have not yielded additional medical staff. We also understand that they have been working cooperatively with the other local hospitals to stabilize and arrange for admission into other AMI units.

We believe that this trend is reaching crisis status and that unless the State and its partners address the capacity, overall recruitment and retention of psychiatrists and the issues of Medicaid reimbursement and indigent care, we will have significantly less access to care for thousands of Illinois citizens.

While I understand that the time period for public comment on this project is expired, I request that this letter be included in the file and I will also monitor the actions of the Board at their September meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandy W. Lewis by [unclear]".

Sandy W. Lewis, MPA  
Executive Director