



July 6, 2012

VIA FAX: 217-785-4111

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

Dear Mr. Constantino:

On behalf of our union and the residents of Northern Illinois I am writing to request that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board conduct a public hearing regarding the request for a permit to discontinue services at the H. Douglas Singer Mental Health Center (#12-060).

The HFSRB may be aware that last October the General Assembly's Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability (COGFA) reviewed and rejected, by a vote of 8-3, Governor Quinn's plan to close Singer MHC. In a memorandum to the Governor, COGFA noted that Singer's 75 beds had a 94% occupancy rate. The bipartisan legislative body also noted the concerns expressed by community organizations and healthcare providers in the region regarding the closure's impact on the availability of acute care psychiatric beds in Northern Illinois.

These are very serious concerns that have not been addressed and are very appropriate for the HFSRB to consider as it reviews the permit application. They are also the kind of issues which local stakeholders will want to have the opportunity to comment on before any final decision is made regarding closure.

We hope to hear from you regarding the scheduling of such a hearing as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Henry Bayer
Executive Director

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American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Council 31

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