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I am a Board Certified psychiatrist and I have been in the private practice of psychiatry in the Rockford area for thirty years. During this time I have also served as Medical Director of Psychiatry at SwedishAmerican and Rockford Memorial Hospitals. I have worked part-time at Rosecrance at the Ware Center and Belvidere locations (formerly Janet Wattles Center) and continue to do so at the present time. I am also currently helping out on a part-time basis at Singer Mental Health Center. I am also a former recipient of the Exemplary Psychiatrist of the Year Award given by NAMI.

It is my sincere belief that Singer must remain open. Singer serves a unique population of patients drawn from a twenty-one county area that no other facility can accommodate.

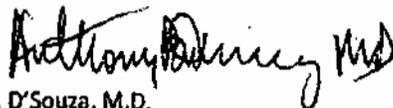
This population includes: 1) the most severely ill patients; 2) the NGRIs (Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity) and UST (Unfit to Stand Trial); and 3) the indigent, homeless mentally ill who cannot be served in another setting.

There is not only the need to keep Singer open as is, but also to expand it and open two more units to accommodate a large number of Forensic patients who are currently in jail awaiting trial. This would relieve overcrowding and backlog in jails and court systems and get the patients the treatment they need and deserve.

This is the perfect time for all sectors of our community to join together and work together with a comprehensive plan to coordinate the treatment of the most underserved and neglected members of our society.

It is time for the Public and Private providers to really utilize their talents and work cooperatively rather than as separate entities with different goals and objectives. This was what Community Mental Health was envisioned to be in the first place.

Sincerely,



Anthony B. D'Souza, M.D.