



**ROBERT YOUNG
CENTER**
IOWA HEALTH SYSTEM

12-060
4600 3rd St.
Moline, IL 61265
Administration Office
309-779-2043

September 4, 2012

Dale Galassie, Chair
c/o Courtney Avery
Health Facilities Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson St.
Springfield, Illinois 62761

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Dear Mr. Galassie:

Given the vast budget deficit in the State of Illinois, it is obvious that significant adjustments must occur in all spheres of State Government. Among the planned expense reductions in Illinois is the closure of certain State Operated Facilities (SOF) such as Singer Mental Health Center. Theoretically, one must assess if existing patients currently being treated at Singer can acquire supportive behavioral services in their home communities and reside in a safe and supportive environment.

While closure is not the most ideal scenario for behavioral health services, it is our belief the Department of Mental Health has engaged in a sincere re-balancing effort whereby consideration has been given to re-investing in community services that encompass local treatment and recovery options for the severe and persistent mentally ill who otherwise might be referred to Singer Mental Health Center. A plan we submitted to DMH was approved and it will allow us to enhance behavioral crisis intervention services at Trinity Medical Center as well as surrounding hospitals in our region. The Robert Young Center for Community Mental Health / Trinity Medical Center has experienced the closure of East Moline Mental Health, Galesburg Research Hospital and Zeller Zone Center. In each instance, supportive services were funded by the Department of Mental Health to develop appropriate community services. It has worked.

However, it is also important to understand that high acuity behavioral patients present a substantial safety burden to community hospitals that contain psychiatric units. A community hospital is simply not staffed to restrain combative / violent patients. We have been assured that in the infrequent instance when we are faced with a particularly combative and violent patient, that an alternative SOF will be made available. We have a long history of positive deflection of patients from SOF's. So, given the approved plan for additional community crisis services coupled with the assurance that DMH will coordinate safe patient placement, we support the closure of Singer Mental Health Center.

Sincerely,

David L. Deopere, Ph.D.
President, Robert Young Center