



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

RICHARD J. DALEY CENTER
COOK COUNTY
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

THOMAS J. DART
SHERIFF

February 5, 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Letter of Support
Holy Cross Hospital Proposed Psychiatry Unit
Project 13-076

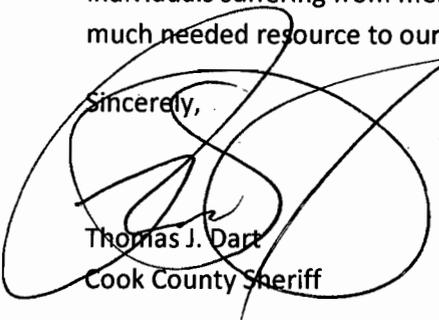
Dear Ms. Avery,

Due to a shortage of Acute Mental Illness hospital beds in the Holy Cross Hospital community, Sinai Health System has asked for the authority to open a fifty bed inpatient Psychiatric Unit at Holy Cross.

Because Holy Cross Hospital is the only hospital in a very large and densely populated area, it has one of the busiest emergency departments in the state and serves a very large Medicaid and uninsured population. It is often difficult to find placement for emergency patients requiring inpatient behavioral health treatment. Many of the persons held at the Cook County Jail are primarily in need of inpatient mental health services. Housing these individuals in jail places undue economic, human resource and facility utilization burdens on an already severely challenged criminal justice system.

For many years, Sinai Health System has addressed the mental health needs of the communities it serves with quality inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services. By establishing inpatient psychiatric services at Holy Cross Hospital, Sinai Health System will be providing critical, greatly needed and accessible treatment for individuals suffering from mental illness. I urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Planning Board to approve this much needed resource to our criminal justice system.

Sincerely,


Thomas J. Dart
Cook County Sheriff