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DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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HEALTH FACILITIES
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

January 30, 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.

Holy Cross Hospital is the only hospital in a very large and densely populated service 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 place emergency patients requiring inpatient behavioral health treatment. Many of these patients have excessive waits while the emergency department physicians and staff try to arrange inpatient treatment at any of numerous distant hospitals. Placements become even more difficult when a patient is either uninsured or underinsured.

Sinai Health System has demonstrated a strong commitment to address the mental health needs of the communities it serves and has provided high quality inpatient care and outpatient services for many years.

GSDC is a local CDC which has been a part of the community for forty years. Holy Cross Hospital plays a vital role in the health and vitality of the community which we serve. GSDC strongly urges the Illinois Health Facilities and Planning Board to approve this needed Acute Mental Illness unit at Holy Cross Hospital.

Sincerely,

Ghian Foreman
Executive Director

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