

St. Nicholas of Tolentine Church

3721 WEST 62ND STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60629-4099

PHONE: 773-735-1121
FAX: 773-735-1135

RECEIVED

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

2/24/14

Ms Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Planning Board
525 w Jefferson St.
Springfield, Il 62761

RE: Holy Cross Hospital Proposed Psychiatry Unit, Project 13-076

Dear Ms Avery,

My name is Linda Ewing and I am a parish nurse at St Nicholas of Tolentine Church. One weekend a month I am present in church for all of the masses on Saturday and Sunday to assist people with any health needs. It is common to have mentally ill people come to the church looking for a place to stay warm, or to ask for money and to exhibit some behavior problems. Some of these people are homeless and some live in the neighborhood, but they seem to think the church is a safe place to come to ask for help. Some would likely benefit greatly from many levels of professional care.

Our church is located by Holy Cross Hospital and we would support having a psychiatric unit at Holy Cross Hospital. We do not have many resources in the community for the mentally ill and we are aware that Holy Cross hospital would take care of people with and without insurance. Having an inpatient psychiatric unit at the hospital would then allow the community to gain a resource of both inpatient care and there would also be outpatient follow-up care.

I strongly urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Planning Board to approve Sinai Health system adding this needed unit at Holy Cross Hospital.

Sincerely,

Linda Ewing

Linda Ewing
Parish nurse
St Nicholas of Tolentine church