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May 13, 2014

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, 2nd floor
Springfield, IL. 62761

RE: Letter of Support - Project 14-011 Maryville Behavioral Health Hospital

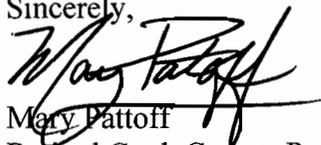
Dear Ms. Avery:

Please accept this as a "letter of support" on behalf of Maryville Behavioral Health Hospital's ("Hospital") application for a permit to discontinue its operations. I am a retired Cook County Juvenile Probation Officer. During my tenure, I had many Maryville Academy youth as part of my caseload. I often collaborated with Maryville's staff in trying to find mental health services for its clients. I am familiar with the good work that Maryville Academy has done on behalf of children and their families for over 129 years, including the Hospital which it has operated since 2000.

It is my understanding that the Hospital operated with a \$4 million deficit in 2013 and will lose approximately \$6 million this fiscal year. I regret that Maryville needs to close the Hospital, but I strongly believe that its losses over time will diminish the broader Maryville mission and services. Maryville's outstanding residential care and family preservation service programs will be at risk if it continues to operate the hospital at this level of deficit. Maryville's residential living program offers homes to over 150 children and adolescents; the Madden Shelter provides temporary housing for homeless teenagers, the Children's Healthcare Center and Crisis Nursery offer assistance to hundreds of families who are in crisis. The greater good here is to allow Maryville to continue its mission of serving children and families in these programs rather than continue operating the hospital. I believe there would be a far greater negative impact to mental health care for children if Maryville's residential and family preservation programs are diminished or have to close.

I support the Maryville's application to discontinue its Hospital's operations. This will allow Maryville to re-dedicate its precious resources to its residential and family preservation programs. Overall, the Hospital's closure will enhance Maryville's ability to provide behavioral health services in a community setting by allowing it to focus on the programs it has excelled in for over a century.

Sincerely,



Mary Pattoff
Retired Cook County Probation Officer