

**PLEASE EMAIL THIS SIGNED LETTER TO lklein@ushealthvest.com
PLEASE DO NOT MAIL DIRECTLY TO MS. AVERY, THANK YOU!**

February 01, 2017

Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, Illinois 62761

RE: Certificate of Need Application for Silver Oaks Hospital

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing this letter in support of the certificate of need application for a 100-bed behavioral hospital in New Lenox, IL through the joint venture between Silver Cross Hospital and US HealthVest.

There is an unmet need in the surrounding area for specialized psychiatric services that is resulting in patients being deferred or denied treatment. Approval of this application will increase access to these important services in Will & Grundy Counties.

Please add a personalized paragraph describing your own experiences and/or evidence indicating a need for inpatient psychiatric care. Talking points can include, but are not limited to:

- *Issues with patients waiting for a psychiatric bed in hospital emergency departments.*
- *Personal or professional experiences where patients in need of psychiatric or substance abuse services were unable to find treatment close to their community.*
- *Professionals unable to find a client/patient (any age group) a bed at an existing, local psychiatric or substance abuse facility.*
- *Issues around recidivism due to lack of aftercare services located near the patient's home.*
- *Problems with family involvement in treatment due to distance / travel time.*
- *Problems with timely aftercare options after hospitalization local to the patient's home.*

I urge you to support the approval of this certificate of need application for a behavioral hospital in New Lenox. There is a great need in the area to expand behavioral health services.

Thank you for your assistance in providing access to care.

Sincerely,



Lisa Kline
Past President
New Lenox Lions Club
PH: 815-474-2433

PLEASE INCLUDE CONTACT INFORMATION HERE



National Hook-Up of Black Women, Inc.

Advocates for Women and Their Families

March 6, 2017

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National Hook-Up of
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Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing this letter in support of the Certificate of Need application for a 100-bed behavioral hospital in New Lenox, IL. Through the joint venture between Silver Cross Hospital and US Health Vest.

As the President of the National Hookup of Black Women, Inc. a 501 c3 nonprofit volunteer community service organization, located in Joliet, Illinois in the county of Will, we are concerned about the amount of people that may experience delays in accessing inpatient psychiatric care due primarily to the shortage of beds. As advocates for women and their families, we recognize the gap in services, treatment and care for the community we serve.

There is an unmet need in the surrounding area for specialized psychiatric services that results in patients being deferred or denied treatment. Approval of this application will increase access to these important services in Will & Grundy Counties.

Just recently it took the hospital hours to address the referral of a child in need of treatment only to result in a recommendation to travel to a facility in Aurora or Chicago which would only impose further hardship on the family in terms of involvement and finance.

I urge you to support the approval of this certificate of need application for a behavioral hospital in New Lenox. There is a great need in the area to expand behavioral health services.

Thank you for your assistance,

Debra Upshaw, Joliet Chapter President
National Hookup of Black Women, Inc.

Member: National Black United Federation of Charities – CFC #10457

Mission: *To improve the lives of families through support of the arts, culture, health, education, and human service programs.*