

# FOLEY & ASSOCIATES, INC.

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**RECEIVED**

OCT 25 2017

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

**HAND DELIVERED**

October 25, 2017

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator  
**Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board**  
525 West Jefferson Street, Second Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62761

**Re: Project No. 17-048, Lake Behavioral  
Hospital**

Dear Ms. Avery:

Please accept the enclosed support letter from Michael G. Nerheim, State's Attorney, Lake County for the above referenced project.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



John P. Kniery  
Health Care Consultant

JPK/kah

Enclosure





OFFICE OF THE  
**STATE'S ATTORNEY**  
 LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
**MICHAEL G. NERHEIM**  
 STATE'S ATTORNEY

October 25, 2017

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

RE: Certificate of Need Application for Vista Medical Center West

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing this letter in support of the certificate of need application by US HealthVest to expand Vista Medical Center West to a 100-bed behavioral hospital.

The expansion of services in Lake County will address the shortage of inpatient beds to care for the residents of Waukegan and Lake County. There is an unmet need for specialized psychiatric services which US HealthVest has proven they can provide. I am supporting this application because access to mental health treatment remains one of our top issues in Lake County. As Lake County's Chief Law Enforcement official, I see first-hand how many people with mental illness end up in the criminal justice system due to a lack of mental health treatment facilities in our community. We currently have several different initiatives underway to address this pressing issue. The success of these programs hinges on access to care. Lake County also has a robust Specialty Court program which includes a Drug Court, Mental Health Court, and Veteran's Court. We have had to go out of county for placement due to a shortage of psychiatric beds here. Another major issue in Lake County is transportation. Many of the mental health services are located in the Southeastern corner of our community, while much need exists in the Central and Northern portions of our county. Having these services in Waukegan, the largest city in Lake County, will substantially improve this problem.

I urge you to support the approval of this certificate of need application for Vista Medical Center West. There is a great need in the area to expand behavioral health services.

Thank you for your assistance in providing access to care in Lake County.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL G. NERHEIM  
 STATE'S ATTORNEY

**Lake County Building**  
 18 N. County St.  
 Waukegan, IL 60085  
 (847) 377-3000  
 Fax (847) 360-1538

**Child Support**  
 18 N. County St.  
 Waukegan, IL 60085  
 (847) 377-3131  
 Fax (847) 360-1097

**Children's Advocacy Center**  
 123 N. O'Plaine Rd.  
 Gurnee, IL 60031  
 (847) 377-3155  
 Fax (847) 360-6850

**Civil Division**  
 18 N. County St.  
 Waukegan, IL 60085  
 (847) 377-3050  
 Fax (847) 360-0661

**Felony Division  
 Drug Division  
 Cyber Division  
 Special Investigations**  
 18 N. County St.  
 Waukegan, IL 60085  
 (847) 377-3000  
 Fax (847) 360-1538

**Felony Review Division**  
 Robert H. Babcox  
 Justice Center  
 20 S. County St.  
 Waukegan, IL 60085  
 (847) 377-3025  
 Fax (847) 263-6179

**Juvenile Trial Division**  
 Robert W. Depke  
 Juvenile Justice Complex  
 24647 N. Milwaukee Ave.  
 Vernon Hills, IL 60061  
 (847) 377-7850  
 Fax (847) 634-8831

**Misdemeanor Division  
 Traffic Division**  
 18 N. County St.  
 Waukegan, IL 60085  
 (847) 377-3000  
 Fax (847) 625-7129