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HAND DELIVERED

October 26, 2017

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OCT 27 2017

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

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

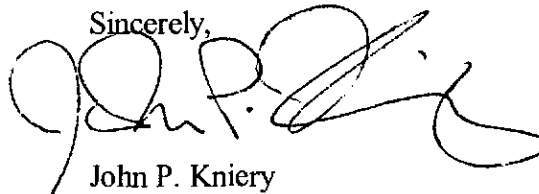
**Re: Project No. 17-048, Lake Behavioral
Hospital**

Dear Ms. Avery:

Please accept the enclosed support letter from Paul Safyan 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



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OCT 27 2017

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Paul S. Safyan
300 Linden Lane
Wheeling, IL 60090
safyone@gmail.com

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 the letter in support of the certificate of need application by US HealthVest to expand Vista Medical Center West to a 146-bed behavioral hospital.

The expansion of services in Lake County will address the shortage of inpatient beds to care for the residents of the City of Waukegan and other residents throughout Lake County. There is an unmet need for specialized psychiatric services which US HealthVest can provide. Currently, there is a severe shortage of psychiatric beds in the service area. Lake County has only 6 beds / 100,000 people compared to the national average of 30 beds / 100,000 people. Many patients are forced to travel outside of the area for psychiatric care, if they receive it at all.

I am a former clinical social worker, and I am a participant in the mental health committee of Lake County United, a grassroots community group. I am acutely aware of not only the shortage of psychiatric beds in Lake County, but also of the lack of availability for police and other first responders to be able to divert potential patients from incarceration or outright abandonment.

I urge you and your colleagues to support the approval of the certificate of need application for US HealthVest, so that they can provide better access to care in Lake County.

Thank you sincerely,

Paul S. Safyan

Paul S. Safyan M.S.C.M.H., MSC