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NOV 08 2017

November 8, 2017

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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

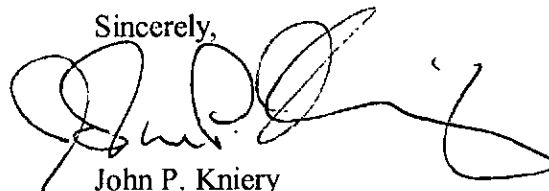
**Re: Project No. 17-048, Lake Behavioral
Hospital**

Dear Ms. Avery:

Please accept the enclosed support letter from Office of the Sheriff, 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

Enclosures





OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

Lake County, Illinois

MARK C. CURRAN, JR.

SHERIFF

25 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave.

Waukegan, Illinois 60085

Phone: (847) 377-4000

Fax: (847) 360-5796

November 7, 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 in support of US HealthVest's Certificate of Need to expand and enhance behavioral health services on the Vista Medical Center West campus.

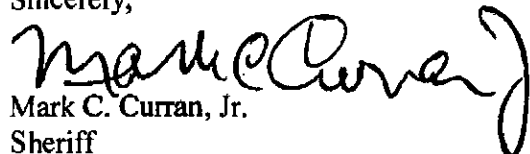
There is an unmet need for specialized psychiatric services that is resulting in patients being deferred or denied treatment. Approval of this application will increase access to these important services in Waukegan, Lake County and beyond. According to the latest Lake County Community Health Assessment Report, mental health issues affect 23% of adults in Lake County with suicide being the 10th leading cause of death in Lake County. Mental health was the highest priority when identifying and building system capacity.

The Sheriff's Office invested in Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) for our first responders, so they are better able to identify residents afflicted with mental health or substance abuse disorders and link them to the services they need. In addition, the Sheriff's Office participates in other diversion initiatives including "A Way Out" and the Veterans Ambassador Program. Both initiatives address core issues and divert entry into the criminal justice system. The success of these initiatives requires the expansion of beds to address the county's increased behavioral health needs.

US HealthVest is making a significant investment in the renovation of the facility that will revitalize the campus. The new hospital will not only bring more qualified health professionals to Waukegan, but will offer new programs – much needed programs for patients and their family members and more inpatient beds than are currently available.

Please help our community and approve the application to expand behavioral health services at Vista Medical Center West.

Sincerely,



Mark C. Curran, Jr.
Sheriff

MCC:pp