

FOLEY & ASSOCIATES, INC.

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HAND DELIVERED

November 9, 2017

RECEIVED

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**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

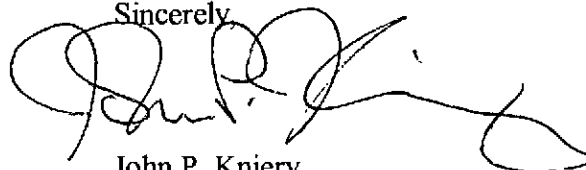
**Re: Project No. 17-048, Lake Behavioral
Hospital**

Dear Ms. Avery:

Please accept the enclosed support letter from Nicasa Behavioral Health Services 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





Board of Directors

Javier Alonso	Janice Kapinos	Ali O'Brien	Jennifer Witherspoon
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Stephen Down	Beverly Mull	Jim Snow	
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November 7, 2017

Chief Executive Officer: Bruce N. Johnson Chief Operating Officer: Linda Snellen

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.

In my capacity as Chief Executive Officer of Nicasa Behavioral Health Services, I am well-aware of how much this expansion is needed in Lake County. We have been offering outpatient and intensive outpatient substance abuse treatment services for many years and began offering mental health services to youth and adults in 2013. It is so frustrating for my counselors who know that their clients need in-patient behavioral health care, but they can find no available beds. When options are found, they are often too far away – making it impossible for families to participate in treatment.

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. If you need any further information from me regarding this, I can be reached at 847-201-7009 or bjohnson@nicasa.org.

Sincerely,

Bruce N. Johnson
Chief Executive Officer

31979 N. Fish Lake Rd. Round Lake, IL 60073 847-546-6450	2900 Main St. Buffalo Grove, IL 60089 (847) 634-6422	1724 1 st Street Highland Park, IL 60035 (847) 433-1303	J. H. Fried Center 2031 Dugdale Rd. North Chicago, IL 60064 (847) 785-8660	1113 Greenwood Ave. Waukegan, IL 60087 (847) 244-4434	Bridge House 3016 Grand Ave. Waukegan, IL 60085 (847) 662-4124	1632 23 rd St. Zion, IL 60099 (847) 872-2830
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