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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

HAND DELIVERED

November 13, 2017

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

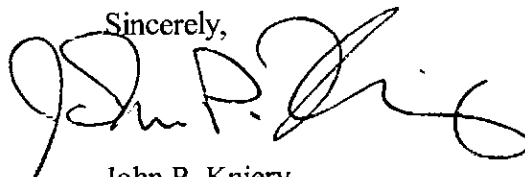
**Re: Project No. 17-048, Lake Behavioral
Hospital**

Dear Ms. Avery:

Please accept the enclosed support letters from Libertyville Elementary Schools, District 70 and Dimensions Home Health Care 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

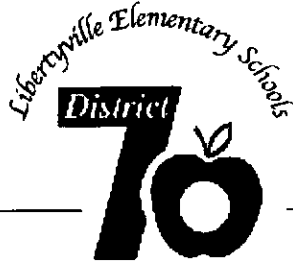


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Department of Special Education

Learning for all, no matter what it takes!

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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.

Just this afternoon I was in a meeting with Lake County Special Education Directors, representing school districts throughout the county. Our group universally identifies mental health needs as a growing concern in the county.

Recently I worked with the family of a child who waited in the ER for over a week to find a hospital bed for their child. Meanwhile, these parents were required to take time off of work and arrange substitute childcare for their other children at home. Sadly this is a common occurrence for families within our community. Even in the best-case scenarios, families are required to drive 30 miles outside of Lake County in order to find inpatient services. Traveling these distances for aftercare services dramatically reduces compliance with prescribed aftercare services, even for the most well intended families.

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,


Christian Otto, Ph.D.

202 South Greenleaf Street, Suite C
Gurnee, IL 60031
847.360.7660 (office)
847.360.8411 (fax)



November 8, 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 146-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 US HealthVest has proven they can provide.

As a home health care agency serving the Medicare population, we at Dimensions often come across patients with behavioral health needs, and there is a woeful lack of access to any of these services in Lake County. Additionally, the senior population (60 and over) needs a different approach when it comes to their behavioral health needs. The reality is that when nursing homes or assisted living facilities cannot handle a resident's behavior, they call the police. This means that elderly patients with dementia are often being handcuffed after their caregivers call police. In some cases, they are even spending the night in jail -- waiting for the paperwork to get sorted. Handcuffs are for punishing people, or for people who have done something wrong and you can't trust them. They're not for dad who is having a medical issue. With the expansion of the Vista West site, we can do away with the handcuffs. It is the goal of US HealthVest to utilize a portion of the hospital specifically as a geriatric psychiatric unit.

In Lake County alone, seniors age 65 and older number 73,093, or 10.4% of residents according to the 2010 Census. The Alzheimer's Association found that 1 in 9 people over the age of 65 has Alzheimer's disease. That means that we have 8,121 Lake County residents with Alzheimer's disease. Lake County currently has no emergency services tailored to meet the specific needs of this population when crisis occurs. But allowing US HealthVest to expand Vista Medical Center West will provide that much needed resource to allow for an individual to be stabilized, appropriately medically treated, and time for the resources within the community or outside of the community to be identified and established to prevent another crisis episode. This will provide families with a resource to help appropriately treat and care for their loved one who is experiencing the fear and disorder of a psychotic episode that frequently occurs with individuals afflicted with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias but aren't able to receive the care and treatment that they need.

I ask you to please support the approval of this certificate of need application for Vista Medical Center West to expand behavioral health services, and thank you in advance for your assistance in providing access to behavioral healthcare in Lake County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Katie Monahan'.

Katie Monahan
Director of Marketing
Dimensions Home Health Care