

# FOLEY & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Charles H. Foley, MHSA  
cfoley@foleyandassociates.com

John P. Kniery  
jkniery@foleyandassociates.com

**HAND DELIVERED**

**RECEIVED**

DEC 05 2017

December 5, 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

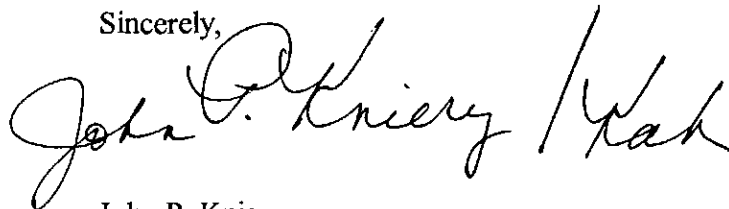
**Re: Project No. 17-048, Lake Behavioral  
Hospital**

Dear Ms. Avery:

Please accept the enclosed eight (8) support letters from Lake County residents 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(s)



Office: 217/544-1551

**Health Care Consulting**  
133 South Fourth Street, Suite 200 • Springfield, IL 62701  
foley@foleyandassociates.com

Fax: 217/544-3615

Dec 2, 2017

Courtney Avery, Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

525 West Jefferson Street

Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Certificate of Need Application for Vista Medical Center West

Dear Ms Avery,

There is a critical need for more psychiatric services in Lake Country and I support the application to expand psychiatric services at Vista Medical Center West.

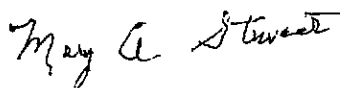
My family and I have struggled for over 35 years to access mental health treatment for my daughter. We have had to travel to Waukegan, Elgin, Aurora, Zion, Elk Grove Village, numerous hospitals in Chicago and many more. Every new hospital is a learning challenge for us. We've often set out to visit our daughter but due to rush hour traffic or road conditions have arrived too late - past visiting hours. This caused grief to me but most especially to my child who was suffering enough. Post hospitalization programs didn't usually work for us since they were too far away or weren't offered.

Regular visits with psychiatrists and psychologist are also needed without long waits. People are suffering.

Please do your best to remedy this situation and provide hospitalization and support programs near our community. Thank you for approving this application. It is crucial to the health of our community.

Sincerely,

Mary A. Stewart



Lake County United Steering Team Member

1301 Sterling Dr, Mundelein, IL 60060

847-837-1466

Mstewart-wesson@comcast.net

December 2, 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.

Lake County needs the specialized psychiatric services that the center will provide so that patients will no longer be deferred or denied vital 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 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in Lake County. Mental health was the highest priority when identifying and building system capacity.

I have watched my neighbor, who has been diagnosed with schizophrenia ten years ago, be bounced from one facility to another without resolution of his continued care. Year after year, he has ended up at home again with his parents who are unable to care for him without a proper care plan and guidance from physicians and nurses. His fate is in the hands of those who are making this decision.

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,

*Elaine O'Donnell*

Elaine O'Donnell  
847-732-4843

December 4, 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 Center West

Dear Ms. Avery,

There is a critical need for psychiatric services in Lake County. 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. I support the application to expand the psychiatric services at Vista Medical Center West.

Lake County United is a non-profit alliance of institutions, bringing together Muslims, Jews, Christians and secular institutions addressing community issues. Lake County United has researched the current best mental health practices.

Lake County United was asked to have people prepared to speak at a possible proposed psychiatric hospital in Vernon Hills. At that meeting in April, not only the people who planned to tell their stories about mental illness needs spoke, but enough unprompted people took turns to speak so that the meeting lasted until midnight.

That you for approving this application, it is crucial to the health of our community,

Sincerely,

*Barbara Gosh*

Barbara Gosh  
volunteer  
Lake County United

December 3, 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 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in Lake County. Mental health was the highest priority when identifying and building system capacity.

As the cousin of several people who suffer from clinical depression and one who had schizophrenia, as well as a close friend of the mother of a young man with paranoid schizophrenia, I know how important a crisis center can be. One young cousin "self medicated" with drugs, because he was depressed to the point that he overdosed and died. Finding help when they were in crisis was crucial.

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,

*Meta Levin*

Meta L. Levin  
Congregation Solel, Just Congregations Committee

Meta L. Levin, 2021 St. Johns Avenue, 2F, Highland Park, IL 60035. [Meta.levin@comcast.net](mailto:Meta.levin@comcast.net) (847) 404-9497

December 3, 2017

Courtney Avery, Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson St.  
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Certificate of Need Application for Vista Medical Center West

Dear Ms. Avery:

As a resident of Lake County, it is important that I let you know I support the expansion of psychiatric beds at Vista Medical Center West. Suicide is the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death among residents of Lake County and while we have a 46 bed psychiatric unit at Vista Medical Center West, we cannot seem to provide the crisis stabilization needed to help residents of all ages who live in Lake County. I have been informed that US HealthVest will expand these critical services in our community.

My sister-in-law committed suicide because she did not feel that she had access to appropriate inpatient mental health care at the time she needed it. I do not want to see other families go through this experience.

I also know that law enforcement in Lake County is in favor of appropriate mental health services for persons they need to detain rather than putting them in jail cells.

I am delighted to hear of the expansion of Vista Medical Center West to 146 beds and I support the certificate of need application to increase access to more psychiatric beds in my community.

Sincerely,

*Sharon Stein*

Highland Park, IL

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,

As a resident of Lake County it is important that I let you know I support the expansion of psychiatric beds at Vista Medical Center West. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death among residents of Lake County and while we have a 46-bed psychiatric unit at Vista Medical Center West we cannot seem to provide the crisis stabilization needed to help residents of all ages who live in Lake County. I have been informed US HealthVest will expand these critical services in our community.

I am a dedicated PADS volunteer for over 20 years. I have seen the escalation of clients and their need for housing. I have also seen an unbelievable increase in mental illness cases we deal with. Our country is in a crisis now with mental illness reacted crimes and we need to be sure our Lake County residents are receiving the help they need.

I am delighted to hear of the expansion of Vista Medical Center West to 146 beds and I support the certificate of need application to increase access to more psychiatric beds in my community.

Sincerely,

*Kathy Brosmith*

Mundelein, IL

December 4, 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,

As a resident of Lake County it is important that I let you know I support the expansion of psychiatric beds at Vista Medical Center West. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death among residents of Lake County and while we have a 46-bed psychiatric unit at Vista Medical Center West we cannot seem to provide the crisis stabilization needed to help residents of all ages who live in Lake County. I have been informed US HealthVest will expand these critical services in our community.

I am delighted to hear of the expansion of Vista Medical Center West to 146 beds and I support the certificate of need application to increase access to more psychiatric beds in my community.

Sincerely,

*Patricia Hollenkamp*

Patricia Hollenkamp  
652 E. Grand Ave.  
Lake Villa, IL 60046



December 4, 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,


As a resident of Lake County it is important that I let you know I support the expansion of psychiatric beds at Vista Medical Center West. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death among residents of Lake County and while we have a 46-bed psychiatric unit at Vista Medical Center West we cannot seem to provide the crisis stabilization needed to help residents of all ages who live in Lake County. I have been informed US HealthVest will expand these critical services in our community.

In my experience, my wife and I have struggled to find effective resources and supporting hospitals for our son's challenges with mental illness, within Lake County. We have been forced to travel out of state, as well as to facilities in DuPage County that are over 45 minutes away by car. This places an unnecessary burden on us, as well as many other families and individuals in search of the same support within Lake County.

Our family members are the ones that have been diagnosed with mental illness, but we should also be certified as acting in a delusional manner, having accepted this for so long and not recognizing this need much sooner.

I am delighted to hear of the expansion of Vista Medical Center West to 146 beds and I support the certificate of need application to increase access to more psychiatric beds in my community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis M. Donelon". The signature is stylized with a large initial "D" and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dennis M. Donelon – Parent  
1702 N. Shoal Creek Terrace  
Vernon Hills, IL 60061