



19-023

State of Illinois
Circuit Court of Cook County
County Division

Sharon M. Sullivan
Presiding Judge

50 West Washington Street
Suite 1701
Richard J. Daley Center
Chicago, Illinois 60602
(312) 603-6194

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

June 19, 2019

Ms. Courtney R. Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities & Service Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Ms. Avery:

As Presiding Judge of the County Division, which hears civil mental health proceedings in the Circuit Court of Cook County, a Steering Member of the SAMSHA Assisted Outpatient Treatment Grant, a member of the Illinois Supreme Court Special Advisory Committee for Justice and Mental Health Planning, a member of the State's Attorney Mental Health & Diversion Advisory Committee and a member of the City of Chicago Crisis Intervention Advisory Committee I whole-heartedly support Advocate Illinois Masonic Center's Certificate of Need Application to construct a new building addressing the future needs of outpatient behavioral health.

In the Circuit Court of Cook County, over 45 hospitals file approximately 4500 petitions annually which seek either involuntary commitment on an inpatient or outpatient basis as well as involuntary treatment. During my tenure as Presiding Judge, I and my judicial colleagues have been impressed with Illinois Masonic's unwavering commitment to meet the needs of persons suffering from mental illness.

Illinois Masonic has been a true pioneer in utilizing Illinois' outpatient mental health laws to better serve a diverse and at-risk population in a less restrictive setting. Illinois Masonic has worked in partnership with the courts to resolve complex and difficult cases through Agreed Outpatient Orders, has filed numerous outpatient commitment petitions, and their Medically Integrated Crisis Community Team (MICCS) has served as Custodian on Outpatient Orders. Physicians and social workers from Illinois Masonic have willingly participated in meetings with the Court to increase access to justice and shared their expertise to educate other mental health providers on Illinois' outpatient laws.

As I have been overseeing a pilot program in the Circuit Court of Cook County which diverts criminal misdemeanants to outpatient treatment, I know there is a huge unmet need for outpatient treatment and that demand will exponentially increase in the future.

I respectfully request that the Planning Board approve Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center's Certificate of Need Application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Sullivan".

Judge Sharon M. Sullivan