Between Friends
Building a Community Without Domestic Violence

P.O. Box 608548, Chicago, IL 60660
T: 773-274-5232 F: 773-262-2543
www.betweenfriendschicago.org

Board of Directors

Michelle Cohen, President
United Airlines

Anne Caskey Farmer, Vice President

Catherine Carmody, Secretary
Declare Associates

Elyse M. Hahner
Morgan Stanley

Kristina B. Alkass
Lavelle Law, Ltd

Maria Mogul
A Night Out

S. Mayumi Grigsby
Cook County State's Attorney's Office

Daniel Hernandez
Walczak Hernandez, P.C.

Yesenia Maldonado
Executive Director

Advisory Council

Bonnie H. Chan*
CFO
Interlink Americas

Rev. Charles W. Dahm, O.P.
Director, Archdiocese of Chicago
Domestic Violence Outreach

Beth F. McCormack*
Family Law Partner
Beermann Law

Noeleen McGrath
President
McGrath Comm

Caroline Moellering*
Brokerage Associate
Coldwell Banker Residential

Ald. Joe Moore
Alderman of Chicago's 49th Ward
City of Chicago

Aileen M. Robinson
Program Development Coordinator
Chicago Police Department

Paul Schewe, Ph.D.
Director, UIC's Interdisciplinary
Center for Research on Violence
University of Illinois at Chicago

Terrill L. Stumpf, Ph.D., M.Div.
Health and Wellness Consultant

Michele Weldon
Author, Journalist
Assistant Professor, Emerita
Northwestern University

Nancy Widmer Freeman
Former Board Member

Anne Ray
Senior Claims Attorney
Markel Insurance

Diana Palomar
Vice President, Community Affairs
ADC 7

*Board Member Emeritus

July 1, 2019

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

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am pleased to write on behalf of Between Friends in support of the planned affiliation between Swedish Covenant Health (SCH) and NorthShore University HealthSystem. Between Friends has partnered closely with Swedish Covenant Health via the Violence Prevention Program, to help break the cycle of domestic violence and build a community free of abuse.

Between Friends has collaborated with SCH on their Violence Prevention Program, the only program of its kind in Chicago, since its inception in 2015. We are honored to be a key partner in this program, which strengthens the hospital's capacity to identify survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking and sexual assault and connect them to health and support services to improve their physical, emotional and financial recovery.

SCH's partnership with NorthShore will strengthen and enhance its services for residents in the City of the Chicago. I believe that joining the NorthShore system will allow Swedish Covenant Health to adapt to the ever-changing health care environment while maintaining the patient-centered approach to care it has become known for. SCH provides significant jobs, critical services, community support and many opportunities within the north side of Chicago. By combining resources with NorthShore, SCH is taking a huge step to ensure that north side residents have the best, most cost-effective healthcare available, which translates into more stable, long-term healthcare and employment in the community.

This new collaboration will assure access to SCH's high quality health services for the diverse community they have served for more than 130 years. Between Friends looks forward to a continued partnership with SCH and their comprehensive Violence Prevention Program as they take this next step to become part of NorthShore University HealthSystem.

Sincerely,

Shailushi Ritchie
Executive Director