

THE CITY OF

GENOA

E-007-15

Mr. Mike Constantino
Project Review Section
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street - 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

October 22, 2015

Dear Mr. Constantino,

I am writing in opposition to the proposal by Northwestern Medicine to remove reasonable access mental health patient hospitalization services for DeKalb County residents by relocation to Central DuPage County Hospital in the Chicago suburb of Winfield. This change would unnecessarily restrict access to mental health hospitalization by creating a great distance to hospital care from DeKalb County, when DeKalb County is a heavily populated area needing these services locally available.

When Kishwaukee Hospital was built, a better in-patient behavioral health care was a significant community need and was requested by the area populace. The community was given a minimally staffed six-bed unit, which was then closed after three years. The closure, granted by the State Health Review Board, was allowed over objections at the time from numerous health care providers, law enforcement and other concerned residents of the County.

A number of problems are created by the attempt to serve DeKalb County residents' mental health needs outside DeKalb County, including that the great distance from the community exacerbates a patient's condition that has caused the crisis being treated:

1. Using a far off hospital removes patients from care by their attending physician and psychiatrist, therapists, clergy and family members.
2. Family, loved ones, and other supportive individuals are forced to travel long distances to visit the patient.
3. Heavy traffic, during visiting hours, deters visitation by members of a patient's support network.
4. The patient becomes isolated from his or her support network. Not keeping the support network intact is not conducive to recovery, and could even prolong the time they are hospitalized, thereby adding to the treatment expense, contrary to the outcome intended by the Health Facility Planning Review's purpose.
5. This treatment model does not present a healthy solution, nor does it engender positive outcome for the patients, families and others in the patient's support network.

Police Department

333 East First Street, Genoa, IL 60135
(815) 784-6633 • Fax (815) 784-2951

Municipal Center

333 East First Street, Genoa, IL 60135
(815) 784-2327 • Fax (815) 784-2988

Public Works

333 East First Street, Genoa, IL 60135
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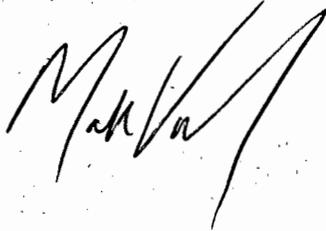
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While I am in favor of the affiliation with Northwestern it needs to be a good fit for all stakeholders, I must therefore express my opposition to the proposed transfer plan of trying to serve DeKalb County residents in need of behavioral health services at the very distant Central DuPage Hospital. I am supportive of returning behavioral health inpatient care facilities to DeKalb County to meet this need in an effective manner for our substantial County population, as soon as possible.

Sincerely Yours,



Mark Vicary
Mayor, City of Genoa

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