



November 13, 2023

Division of Mental Health and Addiction  
Family and Social Services Administration  
402 S Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

To the Division of Mental Health and Addiction:

This letter is to support the application of Oaklawn Psychiatric Center to DMHA's RFS to become a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC). Oaklawn has been a strong community asset to whom we have looked for leadership and for expertise in mental health and addictions work. In my 30+ professional career in Elkhart County I have witnessed Oaklawn collaborating with community partners in many different sectors and working with others to fill gaps in our systems for the good of all community members.

The Community Foundation of Elkhart County has been an asset and leader in the community since 1989, and is one of the top 50 community foundations in the nation. With a mission to "improve the quality of life in Elkhart County by inspiring philanthropy", the organization is involved in all major community initiatives. Two of the three priorities for the community foundation are directly aligned with Oaklawn's concern for the mental health wellbeing of the community. The Community Foundation is co-leading initiatives in the areas of early childhood development and education and student pathways. In both of these initiatives, mental health issues are key factors in the outcomes for our community, and the foundation has granted multi-year operational grants to Oaklawn to support their important work that contributes to our priorities.

We are certainly aware of the many community health surveys that have named mental health as a primary need in our community. We are also aware of the transformational work that Oaklawn has done to transform their access through the development of walk-in clinics that assess people every day at their point of need. When we heard of the significant increase in volume that they have served through this transformation of access, we were both impressed and proud that a community agency such as Oaklawn did what needed to be done to better address this need. We are also looking forward to and supportive of their work in addressing mental health crises through their mobile crisis and crisis stabilization center work in Elkhart County. Additionally, we believe that Oaklawn is a good candidate for selection because we have seen Oaklawn manage many large SAMHSA grants successfully addressing goals, budgets and data.

The Community Foundation of Elkhart County is fully supportive of Oaklawn's application to become a CCBHC. We see the great opportunity that this would be for Oaklawn, for our community and for our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Candy Yoder".

Candy Yoder  
Chief Program Officer