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November 11, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Patrick Quinn, Governor, State of Illinois
The Honorable John Cullerton, President of the Senate
The Honorable Michael Madigan, Speaker of the House of Representatives
The Honorable Christine Radogno, Minority Leader of the Senate
The Honorable Tom Cross, Minority Leader of the House of Representatives
The Honorable Jesse White, Secretary of State
Michelle R. B. Saddler, Secretary, Illinois Department of Human Services

RE: Advisory Opinion of the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
Regarding the Closure of the Tinley Park Mental Health Center

The Commission met on Thursday, November 10, 2011 at 8:00 am to take final action on the proposed closure of the Tinley Park Mental Health Center and to accept or reject the recommendation for closure submitted by the Department of Human Services for that facility. The Commission, on a vote of 9-2, rejected the recommendation by the Department of Human Services to close the Tinley Park Mental Health Center in Tinley Park, Illinois. A copy of the motion to reject the recommendation for closure and the vote tally is attached.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Department of Human Services officially notified the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability (the Commission) of the intent to close the Tinley Park Mental Health Center (Tinley Park) on September 8, 2011. According to the State Facilities Closure Act (30 ILCS 608/5-10): "In the case of a proposed closure of: (i) a prison, youth center, work camp or work release center operated by the Department of Corrections; (ii) a school, mental health center, or center for the developmentally disabled operated by the Department of Human Services; or (iii) a residential facility operated by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Commission must require the executive branch officers to file a recommendation for closure. The recommendation must be filed within 30 days after the Commission delivers the request for recommendation to the State executive branch officer."

The Department of Human Services submitted the recommendation for closure to the Commission on September 9, 2011. However, given that this facility was previously slated for closure, a second request for information was made on October 6, 2011 for additional information detailing the differences between the 2009 and 2011 plans for closure. The Department submitted this additional recommendation information on October 7, 2011. Following the State Facility Closure Act requirements for conducting a public hearing within 35 days after the filing of the recommendation and no more than 25 miles from the facility, the Commission conducted a public hearing regarding the closure of the Tinley Park Mental Health Center on November 1, 2011 at 3:00 P.M. at Georgios Comfort Inn Banquets and Conference Centre in Orland Park, Illinois.

The Tinley Park Mental Health Center is an in-patient facility for individuals with mental illnesses. Patients typically spend one or two weeks at the facility, but can stay longer depending on the services needed. Originally a part of the State Hospital complex at Tinley Park, the Mental Health Center occupies a portion of the total grounds today. Currently, 60 beds are in operation at the facility, which treat 1900 individuals per year.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) has stated that the closure of this hospital will necessarily cause their focus in treatment to change to "predominantly forensically-mandated services with limited options for treating civil acute care and extended care patients." This change would affect 1,903 civil admissions per year, according to the Department. In addition, DHS has indicated that community-based hospitals and mental health providers would be expected to provide other services currently at Tinley Park after the proposed closure. However, in testimony from hospital administrators at the closure hearing, they indicated that no additional beds were available. Furthermore, the administration could not provide the names of any hospitals which have additional capacity to treat the mentally ill.

Tinley Park MHC has a significant physical footprint that will be affected by the proposed closure. The MHC consists of twenty separate buildings, of which only 7 are used in an official capacity. The other 13 buildings are used for excess storage or are vacant. In addition, there is a large amount of land at this facility that is relatively unused. The facility as a whole covers over 250 acres of land.

Currently, there are 196 employees at the Tinley Park MHC. DHS has stated that they do not know the final impact on the employees at this facility until the final closure agreement is negotiated (letter dated September 9, 2011). DHS has not put forth any estimates to the Commission as to the cost of converting units at existing facilities to handle the additional functions from the proposed Tinley Park MHC closure.

The Department has stated that the annual operations cost for Tinley Park MHC was \$20.1 million based on FY 2011 spending. They estimate that a \$37.9 million deficit will remain in the FY 2012 budget despite closing the facility, given the closing costs (and presumably, the costs to convert existing facilities to handle the additional patients). In addition, DHS has stated that they will be providing "minimal funding" for serving individuals in community-based settings, though the precise amount of the reduction has not been determined.

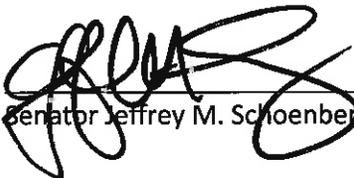
Tinley Park MHC has a number of environmental concerns, as outlined in the DHS response to the Commission dated September 9, 2011. Asbestos is present in the MHC in numerous

buildings. It has been partially abated through various projects by the Capitol Development Board, but it still exists in many rooms, floors of buildings and an underground tunnel system.

The Department has provided an economic analysis of the proposed closing of the Tinley Park MHC, provided by the University of Illinois. This analysis examines employment and economic output of the facility along with tax revenue. According to the analysis, Tinley Park MHC employs 207 individuals (differing from the official DHS statement, but usable for the purposes of the analysis). Through indirect and induced employment, the MHC supports an additional 158 jobs, for a total of 365 jobs supported by the facility. According to the analysis, the Tinley Park MHC is responsible for approximately \$592,000 in state sales tax revenues and \$322,000 in state income tax revenues. In addition to these revenues, the analysis suggests additional costs incurred by a drop in school enrollment and other secondary factors.

The Tinley Park MHC has been suggested for closure previously by the Department. The Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability held a series of hearings in 2008 and 2009 regarding a proposal to close the facility. The Commission voted to approve the request to close the facility contingent on the building of a new facility to serve the South Suburban area. However, the Department has not built a new facility and has stated that they are unable to do so with the limited funding provided in the FY 2012 budget. The Commission noted that given the population in the Southland area that is served by the Tinley Park MHC (approximately 750,000), there is a significant need for mental health beds such as the ones provided by the Tinley Park facility. In addition, the Commission noted at their November 10, 2011 meeting that the City of Chicago is planning to close several mental health facilities, which will likely create additional need for any currently available mental health beds, including the beds at Tinley Park MHC.

These facts have weighed heavily on Commission members' minds. After hearing testimony from the Department of Human Services and numerous other individuals and organizations, the Commission members present voted 9-2 to reject the Department of Human Services recommendation to close the Tinley Park Mental Health Center.



Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg



Representative Patricia R. Bellock

MOTION 2 VOTE

TINLEY PARK MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

Meeting Date: Thursday, November 10, 2011 - 8:00 a.m.

Room 400, Capitol Building

Commission Member	YES	NO
Representative Patricia Bellock (R)		✓
Senator Michael Frerichs (D)		✓
Representative Kevin McCarthy (D)		✓
Senator Matt Murphy (R)		
Representative Elaine Nekritz (D)	✓	
Representative Raymond Poe (R)		✓
Representative Al Riley (D)		✓
Senator Suzi Schmidt (R)		✓
Senator Jeffrey Schoenberg (D)	✓	
Senator David Syverson (R)		✓
Senator Donne Trotter (D)		✓
Representative Michael Tryon (R)		✓
VOTE: Motion 2	2	9

MOTION 1 NEKRITZ
2ND: SCHULTZ

MOTION TO CLOSE TINLEY PARK MHC