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May 14, 2009

## 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  
Ms. Carol Adams, PhD - Department of Human Services Secretary

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

*The Commission met on Tuesday, April 28, 2009 at 11:00 am to take final action on the proposed closure of Tinley Park Mental Health Center, and to accept or reject the recommendation submitted by the Department of Human Services regarding Tinley Park Mental Health Center. The Commission, on a vote of 7-4-1, accepted the recommendation by the Department of Human Services to close the Tinley Park Mental Health Center in Tinley Park, Illinois. A copy of the resolution to accept 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 of the intent to close Tinley Park Mental Health Center on September 5, 2008. The State Facilities Closure Act (30 ILCS 608/5-10) states that "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 Commission requested the required recommendation on September 18, 2008. The Department of Human Services submitted the recommendation for closure to the Commission on November 3, 2008. The State Facility Closure act, in the case of a proposed closure of a mental health center, states that the Commission "must conduct one or more public hearings on the recommendation. Public hearings conducted by the Commission shall be conducted no later than 35 days after the filing of the recommendation. At least one of the public hearings on the recommendation shall be held at a convenient location within 25 miles of the facility for which closure is recommended." The statutorily required public hearing was held on December 11, 2008 beginning at 4:00 pm at the Tinley Park Convention Center. At the hearing, the Commission took over seven hours of public testimony.

The Commission met on Monday, January 12, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. to further discuss the recommendation for closure of Tinley Park Mental Health Center. The Commission voted 9-1 to temporarily withhold final action regarding the closure of Tinley Park Mental Health Center until 60-days after the impeachment proceedings against former Governor Rod Blagojevich had been completed.

On April 28, 2009, the Commission met to take final action on the recommendation for closure of Tinley Park Mental Health Center. The Commission then voted 7-4-1 to accept the Department of Human Services "recommendation for closure" of Tinley Park Mental Health Center.

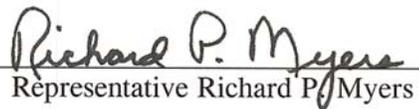
## CONCLUSION

After many hours of extensive testimony and discussion, a majority (seven) of the appointed members to the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability voted to accept the Department of Human Services recommendation to close Tinley Park Mental Health Center. Documents submitted by the Department of Human Services indicate the intent to build a new mental health center in the Southland area, stating that it is "required and necessary". The Commission agrees that, in conjunction with the closure of the current facility at Tinley Park, that a new hospital be constructed in the Southland area. The Commission still feels that the overall recommendation for closure lacks specificity to the final disposition of Tinley Park Mental Health Center. Many questions still remain regarding the financing of a new hospital and the location a new facility would be constructed. The Commission is also aware that the current facility is antiquated and lacks the necessary modernizations to insure employee and patient safety. In the interest of moving the process forward, the Commission agrees that it is in the best interest of the State of Illinois and patients at Tinley Park Mental Health Center to accept the recommendation for closure proposed by the Department of Human Services.



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Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg  
CGFA Co-Chairman



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Representative Richard P. Myers  
CGFA Co-Chairman