February 26, 2021

Ms. Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director
Department of Health & Human Services
Milwaukee County
1220 W. Vliet Street, Suite 301
Milwaukee, WI 53205

Dear Ms. LaGrant-McClain,

The four Milwaukee -based private health systems we represent have been working with the Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services to pursue development of a new Mental Health Emergency Center (MHEC) over the past three years. The MHEC is an innovative public-private partnership that looks to address the crisis mental health needs of vulnerable residents closer to where they live. It is an important step forward in continuing to evolve the mental health and substance use system in Milwaukee County.

Following unanimous approval by the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board this past December, we signed a Letter of Intent with the County outlining our shared commitment to support the creation of a new not-for-profit organization to oversee construction and management of the MHEC. We are hopeful the Milwaukee County Board will share in this vision for the MHEC by supporting the County Executive and Mental Health Board's proposal to fund the County's share of capital costs. Please know our private health systems each are prepared to make our share of contribution to the capital and operating expenses of the venture.

As we advance design and eventual construction of the project, the private health systems are aware of Milwaukee County's expectations related to Community Benefits. We similarly value diverse and inclusive participation in development of the facility. We expect Community Benefit goals to be formalized as part of the land transfer from Milwaukee County to the MHEC and are organizing and preparing the project team accordingly.

We look forward to continued collaboration with Milwaukee County on the project.

Sincerely,

The Milwaukee Health System Market Leaders to the MHEC Joint Venture

Kelly Elkins   Carrie Killoran   Bob Duncan   Eric Conley
Ascension   Advocate Aurora   Children's Wisconsin   Froedtert