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August 11, 2017

Alexandria Hicks, Certificate of Need Coordinator
Department of Health and Social Services, Office of Rate Review
3601 C Street, Suite 978
Anchorage, AK 99503
Phone: (907) 754-3428; Fax: (907) 334-2220

Re: CON Application adding 36 inpatient behavioral health beds at Mat-Su Regional Medical Center

Dear Ms. Hicks:

The Greater Palmer Chamber of Commerce supports the Certificate of Need application to add 36 inpatient behavioral health beds for adult substance abuse and mental health services at Mat-Su Regional Medical Center in Palmer.

Currently, these services are non-existent in the Mat-Su Borough. In light of the alarming opioid epidemic and growing instances of mental health crises, being forced to rely on the local emergency department as a substitute for behavioral health care is no longer an option.

As the second largest, and fastest growing population in all of Alaska, residents of the Mat-Su need access to care for our behavioral health needs now.

The Greater Palmer Chamber of Commerce's mission is to provide leadership that fosters growth and prosperity by ensuring the Greater Palmer area is the best place to operate and grow a business, as well as the most desirable place to live, work, play and visit. This addition is necessary in order to maintain the desirability of our region and the well-being of our population.

The Greater Palmer Chamber of Commerce requests that Mat-Su Regional Medical Center's application be approved.

Respectfully,

Chris Chappel, President
Greater Palmer Chamber of Commerce