



MARION COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
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February 1, 2021

Indiana Family and Social Services Administration
Division of Mental Health and Addiction
402 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

RE: Valle Vista Health System

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of the expansion of Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs) in Indiana, as authorized by 2017 legislation that expanded the number of OTPs in Indiana. I am writing to support Valle Vista's application to operate one of these facilities.

Valle Vista has been part of the substance use disorder provider network in Central Indiana for over 35 years, serving individuals in need of substance use and mental health services from hospitalization through reintegration into the community. In 2018, New Vista was opened to provide opioid treatment program in Johnson County. According to data from the program, results of patients in long term recovery, as defined by seeking treatment for six months or longer, show that patients involved in the program have a 71% employment level, 61% have connected to mental health services and 97% have stable housing.

In the Marion County Prosecutor's Office we witness firsthand the devastating effects that substance abuse has in our community. Treatment for substance abuse and mental health play important roles in changing behavior for those involved in the criminal justice system, particularly in reducing recidivism for low level offenders.

Approximately 30,000 criminal cases are disposed in Marion County each year. The Prosecutor's Office is dedicated to holding individuals accountable for their actions, preserving the rights of victims, and continually seeking justice, all while maintaining the highest of ethical standards. The Office is also committed to improving public safety through a range of efforts focused on addressing violence, preventing crime, and reducing recidivism.

A full continuum of treatment options need to be available to those in our community struggling with substance abuse, particularly opioid addiction, to ensure that their recovery needs are met. Treatment and recovery for those seeking assistance are essential to improving public safety, public health, and quality of life in our community. I respectfully ask that you give this application full consideration.

Sincerely,

Ryan Mears
Marion County Prosecutor