



**STATE OF INDIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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Courts and Criminal Code
Employment, Labor and Pensions
Public Health

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FSSA
Division of Mental Health and Addiction
State of Indiana
Indianapolis, IN 46204

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of the expansion of Opioid Treatment Programs in Indiana. As a co-author of the 2017 legislation that expanded the number of OTPs in Indiana, I am pleased to support Valle Vista's application to operate one of these facilities.

As a part of the state's largest system of providers of substance use and mental health services in Indiana; Valle Vista is positioned to continue their treatment of those in recovery through the expansion of the OTPs in the state. Valle currently operates an OTP at their Greenwood facility and I understand that they are seeking to expand their footprint by opening an OTP in Marion and Hamilton County. An Indiana University study found that synthetic opioid deaths have increased 600 percent from 2012-2016. Further highlighting the need for additional treatment options for Hoosiers.

Valle Vista Health System continues to collaborate with communities and other mental health and addiction treatment providers on Substance Use Disorder prevention and treatment. By joining efforts with other community partners, it works more effectively to reduce overdose and death rates related to substance abuse. Valle Vista has a 35 year history in serving Indiana in providing Mental Health and Addiction treatment services.

In 2018, Valle Vista was selected as one of the five sites selected by DMHA to operate a CMS approved site. Since then, they have seen over 600 patients, of which 141 have stayed in long term treatment, as defined by 90 plus days.

OTPs provide individual in recovery from opioid abuse to maintain their sobriety and re-engage in activities of daily living; allowing them the opportunity to work and be engaged members of their families and their communities.

Sincerely,

Cindy Ziemke
State Representative
House District 55
CZ:je