

April 27, 2009

Thomas Hudgins
Pinckneyville Community Hospital
101 N Walnut Street
Pinckneyville, IL 62274

Dear Mr. Hudgins:

This letter is written in response to "impact on access" when Pinckneyville Community Hospital District discontinues services and relocates to a new location. Based on available services, Sparta Community Hospital District is willing and able to accept any patients that may need medical services. If discontinuation were to occur, all patients would be accepted from your market area with little impact on our hospital's workload. We also are Medicare certified for Swing Bed patients so could assume any of these patients who need skilled care. I foresee little impact on our facility if the proposed replacement facility is approved.

Sparta Community Hospital District wishes Pinckneyville Community Hospital District's the best in future endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joann Emge', written over a horizontal line.

Joann Emge,
Chief Executive Officer

JLE/djp

cc: Mr. Jeffrey Mark

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"Quality Health Care Close to Home"

Sparta Community Hospital District

818 E. Broadway • Sparta, Illinois 62286 • 618.443.2177 • 618.443.2938 fax • www.spartahospital.com



09-068

December 17, 2009

Leonard Heisner
312 West Randolph St.
Pinckneyville Il 62274
Lheisner13@hotmail.com

Mike Constantino, Project Review Section
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street (2nd Floor)
Springfield, Il 62761
(217) 782-3516

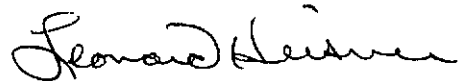
Dear Mr. Constantino

My name is Leonard Heisner and I am a member of the Pinckneyville Community Hospital Board. I was wondering if you could provide me with a little information. On Nov. 30, 2009 our hospital was sent a letter outlining the procedures for moving forward with our CON. The letter stated that anyone wishing a hearing had until December 16, 2009 to request one. In our Dec 07, 2009 board meeting I asked the Administrator about the letter and if public notice was going to be given. This was a concern of mine since there was less than 9 days to get it in our local papers. He stated that the Health Facilities Board had been given our local papers and their addresses. That it was up to your board to give public notice.

Two days later Mr. Hudgins told me that the notice had been published in a Belleville paper. I didn't see anything in our local papers, but that doesn't mean that I didn't miss it. My question is this. If it was only put in a Belleville paper which is 60 miles from our community how can anyone (taxpayers) be expected to respond. If your agency was given the wrong information in regards to the local newspapers, then I would like to know who gave you that info.

You see Mr. Constantino, I'm neither for or against a new hospital in Pinckneyville. What I am for is giving everyone that may eventually have to bear the cost of this facility the right to all the information they can get. If they are not even given the opportunity to read the public notices because the law is ambiguous about where it must be published that is wrong. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and I hope that I receive a response.

Sincerely
Leonard Heisner



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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

09-068

March 08, 2010

George Roate
Reviewer, Program Review Section
Division of Health Systems Development
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield Il 62761
217-782-3516

This letter is in regard to the proposed replacement facility Pinckneyville Community Hospital. Let me begin by saying that all the paperwork and testimony that the Pinckneyville Hospital has presented is in order and correct as far as I and the rest of the board are aware of. That being said I also want to make it clear that my opinions in no way reflect the rest of the boards view on this project.

I came on the board two years ago(having served eight years in the 1990's). The present board had made the decision to build a new facility. To make that possible they needed to close Skilled Care. That happened in the fall of 2008. The closing of Skilled Care polarized the community against the hospital. That has been demonstrated by the fact that our numbers have not improved as we were led to believe they would if Skilled Care was closed. It also led in part to a local physician leaving the area and going to a facility 20 miles away. With him he took not only patients but also a lot of admittances to our facility.

Patients are the only thing that make a hospital go. In a twenty mile radius we have three other full service hospitals that offer basically the same services that we do. In a thirty-five mile radius we have nine more facilities . All but a couple of these hospitals offer many more services than we do and in an eighty mile radius you take in everything in Illinois south of Vandalia, all of St.Louis Mo, Cape Girardeau Mo, and Paducah Ky. The facilities in these areas offer everything a person would need and are not areas that we could ever hope to compete in. I think that a lot of what our hospital is counting on is the shiny new penny theory. If you build it , they will come.

The County in which Pinckneyville sets is Perry. It has led or been close to the leader in unemployment for many years now. In the month of December 09 we were third with a rate of 12.8%. With the budget crunch in Springfield we are feeling it down here. The schools and colleges are talking layoffs, the State funded agencies are either cutting back or shutting down. When people lose their jobs they cut health care first. While this may not impact the amount of patients we get it may effect the amount of them that pay us.

One of the arguments for the new hospital is the creation of new jobs. This will be true during the construction of it but after its built we should not need any more people than we presently employ if that many. The construction jobs may not benefit the locals if the companies that build it bring in their own people and hire out of halls. A few years ago the State built a prison in our town. It did not create the jobs that were hoped for whether it be during construction or operation.

Arguments can be made for and against the new hospital. The hospital will bring in a lot of people that will testify that not only do we have all the paperwork in order but that this is a great idea. Construction cost couldn't be lower , the need for jobs couldn't be greater, and that HUD is willing to back the loan. The only problem with all this testimony is that its their job to say these things. Whether or not you choose to issue this CON, they will all go on to the next customer. They will not care whether Pinckneyville Community Hospital has succeeded or failed in their endeavor. Once a decision to go ahead with this project has been made the only people at risk becomes the Taxpayer. If the people involved in this decision making had some accountability I'm sure that we would not be as quick to make these choices.

In closing I'd just like to say that a Board should take the time to decide whether a project like ours is truly needed or not. I know that this would entail sometimes going against all the experts. You'll find as I said at the beginning of this letter that all the T's will be crossed and the I's dotted, but if that was all that was required then a secretary could ok the application. Do the taxpayers of Pinckneyville a favor and put some thought and effort into this CON application and don't let people tell you that just because they have filled out all the forms correctly then they're entitled.

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Sincerely
Leonard Heisner

