

PUBLIC HEARING REPORT

PROJECT: 10-018 VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER

DATE: MAY 4, 2010

**PLACE: LAKE VILLA TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CENTER
37850 N. ROUTE 59
LAKE VILLA, ILLINOIS 60046**

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**PUBLIC HEARING OFFICER
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

- KAREN HALL

95 INDIVIDUALS WERE IN ATTENDANCE

11 INDIVIDUALS TESTIFIED IN OPPOSITION

67 INDIVIDUALS TESTIFIED IN SUPPORT

RECEIVED

MAY 06 2010

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

1071

Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board
PUBLIC HEARING REGISTER

Site: Lake Villa Township C. C. PROJECT #10-018

Date: May 4, 2010

Address: 37850 N. Route 59

NAME: Vista Lindenhurst
Emergency Center, Lindenhurst

Time: 10:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE/NO TESTIMONY ON PROJECT

#	NAME (Please Print)	AGENCY, ORGANIZATION OR INSTITUTION REPRESENTED (PLEASE PRINT)	CITY (Please Print)	ORAL, WRITTEN OR BOTH (PLEASE PRINT)
1	MARLEN RESNAN		98 VILLA Lindenhurst IL	
2	Vincent Springs Ames	Assistant		
3	Anna Opento	Resident	LV	
4	ATLEY McARTHUR	Centegra	Woodstock	
5	Hadley Strong	Centegra	Mt Henry	
6	Lisa O'Neil	Centegra	McHenry	
7	Roberta Dunaway	Resident	Lake Villa	
8	Brian Matleworth	Resident	Gurnee	
9				
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Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board
PUBLIC HEARING REGISTER

Site: Lake Villa Township C. C. PROJECT #10-018

Date: May 4, 2010

Address: 37850 N. Route 59
NAME: Vista Lindenhurst
Emergency Center, Lindenhurst

Time: 10:00 a.m.

TESTIMONY TO OPPOSE PROJECT

#	NAME (Please Print)	AGENCY, ORGANIZATION OR INSTITUTION REPRESENTED (PLEASE PRINT)	CITY (Please Print)	ORAL, WRITTEN OR BOTH (PLEASE PRINT)
✓ 1	Matt Robbins	Advocate	Libertyville	Both
✓ 2	Susan Milford	Centegra	Melton	Both
✓ 3	Watt Koshmann	Lake Forest	Lake Forest	both
✓ 4	Dr. Maloney	Infinity	Libertyville	both
✓ 5	Dr. Dzicka	Infinity	Libertyville	both
✓ 6	Dr. Keenan Allen	Centegra	Melton	both
✓ 7	Jody Jesse	Advocate Condell	Libertyville	both
✓ 8	Kathy LaPreck	Advocate Condell	Libertyville	both
✓ 9	Rachan Fuller	Advocate Condell	Libertyville	both
✓ 10	Robin Zacher	Advocate Condell	Libertyville	both
✓ 11	Patricia Keenan	Advocate Condell	Libertyville	both
✓ 12	Christa DeWitt	Advocate Condell	Libertyville	both
✓ 13	ENISE CUTLER	Advocate HealthCare	Oak Brook	Oral
✓ 14				
✓ 15				

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**Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board
PUBLIC HEARING REGISTER**

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TESTIMONY TO SUPPORT PROJECT

#	NAME (Please Print)	AGENCY, ORGANIZATION OR INSTITUTION REPRESENTED (PLEASE PRINT)	CITY (Please Print)	ORAL, WRITTEN OR BOTH (PLEASE PRINT)
✓ 1	Barbara Martin	CEO, Vista Health	Maukegan	Both
✓ 2	Ferry Link	Senator, 30 th Dist.		Both
✓ 3	Jo Ann Osmond	Rep. 61 st Dist.		Both
✓ 4	Irene Pierce	Dir., Lake County Health Dept.		Both
✓ 5	Dr. Kenji Oyasu	Vista Health - Medical Dir.		Both
✓ 6	Susan Kahar	Mayor Lindenhurst	Lindenhurst	Both
✓ 7	Dr. David Sziperke	Vista Health Sys/ Cardiac Surgeon		Both
✓ 8	Dr. Martin Weiner	Physician Vista Health		Both
✓ 9	Eddie Washington	State Rep. 60 th Dist.		Both
✓ 10	Dr. Richard Magolin	Physician, Lake Villa		Both
✓ 11	Jim Zimmerman	Exec. Dir., COO, Health Reach		Both
✓ 12	Suzi Schmidt Schmidt	Chair, Lake County Bd		Both
✓ 13	Dr. Terry J. Joy	Physician	Lake Villa	Both
✓ 14	Aaron Bernau	Lake Villa Rescue Squad	Lake Villa Twp.	Both
✓ 15	Dominic Marturano	Trustee, Lindenhurst		Both

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Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board
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#	NAME (Please Print)	AGENCY, ORGANIZATION OR INSTITUTION REPRESENTED (PLEASE PRINT)	CITY (Please Print)	ORAL, WRITTEN OR BOTH (PLEASE PRINT)
✓ 1	Berator Michael Bond	State Senator		Both
✓ 2	Wendy Lotts MD	Doctor Vista Trustee, Lake Villa	Lake Villa	Both
✓ 3	Karen Harms	Superior Ambulance	Lake Villa Township	Both
✓ 4	Mary Miller	Superior	Zion	Both
✓ 5	Dan Venturi	Physician, Vista	Lindenhurst	Both
✓ 6	Dennis McGarry MD	Chief of Police	Lake County	Both
✓ 7	Jack McKeever	Physician, Vista	Waukegan	Both
✓ 8	Neil Fuller, MD	Board Commissioner	Beach Park	Both
✓ 9	Mary Ross Cunningham	Chief of Fire Dept.	Newport	Both
✓ 10	Paul Tierney	Director of ICU	Waukegan/Lindenhurst	Both
✓ 11	Mark Kirschmeier	Doctor - Vista Health System	Waukegan	Both
✓ 12	Sue Holbach	Mayor	Anthony	Both
✓ 13	Joseph Gray, MD	Mayor - Waukegan	Waukegan	Both
✓ 14	Laurence Harrison	Alexyman - Waukegan	Waukegan	Both
✓ 15	Larry Tenpas			Both

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Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board
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#	NAME (Please Print)	AGENCY, ORGANIZATION OR INSTITUTION REPRESENTED (PLEASE PRINT)	CITY (Please Print)	ORAL, WRITTEN OR BOTH (PLEASE PRINT)
✓ 1	Dr. Deborah Smart	Bd Mbr, Vista Health System		Both
✓ 2	Kristina Kovarik	Manager, Gurnee	Gurnee	Both
✓ 3	Dr. Daisy Andaleon	Physician, Vista Health		Both
✓ 4	Robert Sabonian	Manager, Waukegan	Waukegan	Both
✓ 5	Dr. Gerald Haver	Physician, Vista Health		Both
✓ 6	Wayne Sobczak	Chief, Antioch Rescue Squad		Both
✓ 7	Art Neubauer	Vista Bd Mbr, Treasurer, Lindenhurst		Both
✓ 8	Catherine Olson	Resident	Lake County	Both
✓ 9	Frank Lofredo	Mayor, Lake Villa	Lake Villa	Both
✓ 10	Dr. Rashmikanant Patel	Physician, Board Member, Vista		Both
✓ 11	Dr. Michael Schaefer	Scheer Surgical Assoc		Both
✓ 12	Dan Young	Chief, Waukegan Fire Dept.		Both
✓ 13	Dr. Fahad Tajeh	Visita Cardiologist		Both
✓ 14	Dr. Paul Strohmayer	Lake County Surgeon		Both
✓ 15	Fred Friedl	Chief, Gurnee Fire Dept.		Both

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Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board
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✓ 1	Renee Metzelaar	Trustee	Lindenhurst	Both
✓ 2	Arrun Siegel, MD	Doctor / Surgeon	Gurnee	Both
✓ 3	Karen McGrinnick	Director of Emergency Dept.	Vista - Waukegan	Both
✓ 4	Ashok Pradke	Vista Pediatrician	Waukegan	Both
✓ 5	Suzanne Simpson	Township Supervisor	Warren Township	Both
✓ 6	Yashvir Mehta, MD	Vista Radiation Oncologist	Waukegan	Both
✓ 7	Eleanor Murkey	Vista Board Member	Lake County	Both
✓ 8	David Onsager, MD	Vista Surgeon	Waukegan	Both
✓ 9	Pety Gnybowski	Trustee	Lindenhurst	Both
✓ 10	Bill Basten	Patent	Lake County	Both
✓ 11	Marc Trzadel	Chief Nursing Officer - Vista	Vista, Waukegan	Both
✓ 12	Geetha Reddy, MD	Physician at Vista	Waukegan	Both
✓ 13	Gorme Meadley	Chamber of Commerce	Lake Villa	Both
✓ 14	Bryan Sobek	Vista EMS Director	Waukegan	Both
✓ 15	Dennis Train, MD	Vista Physician	Waukegan	Both

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Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board
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✓ 1	Timothy Wayne	Trustee, Lindenhurst		Both
✓ 2	John Van Ropt	Supt., Lake Villa School Dist. 41		Both
✓ 3	Bill Anderson	Trustee, Lindenhurst		Both
✓ 4	Beth Ragsdale	Vista Bd Member		Both
✓ 5	Gay Sabatino	Antioch Schools Supt.	Antioch	Both
✓ 6	Patrick Dunham	Trustee, Lindenhurst		Both
✓ 7	Ellen Mauer	Supt., Millburn School		Both
✓ 8	Terry D'Brien	Grgs, Lake School Supt.		Both
✓ 9	Ann Murphy	Vista Health Sys		Both
✓ 10	Kim Needham	Vista Health Sys		Both
✓ 11	Robert D. Dwyer	-	Lake Villa	Both
✓ 12	Sue Simpson	Darien Township	Guinea	Both
✓ 13	Bud Scott	Lake Villa Fire District	Lake Villa	Oral
✓ 14	Frank Knaack	Trustee, Lindenhurst		Both
✓ 15	FRANK KNAACK	Campaign Volunteer	Lake Villa	Oral



**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
BARBARA J. MARTIN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
VISTA HEALTH SYSTEM
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)**

MAY 4, 2010

Good morning. My name is Barbara J. Martin, and I am the Chief Executive Officer of Vista Health System. Vista operates Vista Medical Center East and Vista Medical Center West, both located in Waukegan, Illinois. We also operate other health care facilities throughout Lake County.

I am proud to say that Vista, through its sponsoring organizations, has applied for permission from the State of Illinois to construct the Vista Lindenhurst Emergency Center. This 7-station facility will greatly improve the public safety and welfare of area residents by giving them better and more appropriate access to emergency medical care.

As you will hear today, the reality is that many of our residents must travel 30 minutes or more at peak travel times in order to reach emergency medical care. This part of Lake County has narrow roads, numerous lakes, railroad

tracks and dramatic population growth—all of which creates delays above and beyond what a MapQuest printout can show you. These types of delays for emergency medical care are unnecessary and unacceptable. And, as some of the witnesses today will confirm, the Illinois legislature had this very sort of problem in mind when it created the Freestanding Emergency Center program.

I am here to provide testimony in support of our CON permit application. I am also here to welcome and thank the many elected officials, community leaders, fire chiefs, medical professionals, EMS leaders, and others who have taken time out of their busy schedules to be here today in support of our project.

People who know me know that I tell it like it is. So let me get straight to the point. Vista is committed to providing high quality, accessible health care services to **all** residents of Lake County, regardless of income level or insurance status. We have walked the walk by serving as the safety net hospital provider in Lake County. Let me give you a few facts:

- Vista provides more Medicaid services than the other 5 hospitals in Lake County combined. Stated differently, we account for over 50 percent of Medicaid admissions in Lake County.
- We provide a tremendous amount of free care to poor patients. Our charity care in 2009 was well over \$ 3.3 million, on a cost basis.

- We have remained in Waukegan and have gladly expanded our services in this economically disadvantaged community, while other hospitals and health systems have stayed away from the Waukegan market.
- And unlike other hospitals and health systems, Vista pays taxes. The \$2.8 million in state and local taxes we paid in 2009 support schools, public works projects, and other essential services for the community.

So when Vista comes to the State of Illinois and the community and says it wants to provide expanded health care services in Lindenhurst, everyone can be confident that those services will be delivered in good faith to all who need them, regardless of insurance status or income level.

The idea of establishing health care services in Lindenhurst did not just occur to Vista in the last year or two. Instead, our 27 –acre Lindenhurst campus has been providing outpatient services to the residents of this community for more than a decade. We currently operate a licensed full-service Ambulatory Surgical Treatment Center, comprehensive diagnostic medical imaging services, and an FAA-approved Helipad on the campus. And I think it would be fair to say we have done everything within our power to expand those services in Lindenhurst. We have done all of this while continuing to serve as the safety net hospital provider for Lake County.

So why does Vista have a Lindenhurst campus, and why are we trying to expand our services in North Central and Northwestern Lake County? We do this to address the geographic maldistribution of health care in Lake County. This maldistribution results in a heavy concentration of health care facilities in East Lake County, and a shortage of these facilities in North Central and Northwestern Lake County. Because of this maldistribution, residents of North Central and Northwestern Lake County do not have the prompt access to emergency medical services they need and deserve.

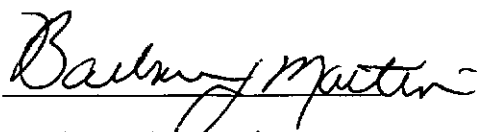
North Central and Northwestern Lake County recently have become very attractive to other health systems. With all due respect to these other systems, they are latecomers to this community. And from where I sit, these systems seem pretty selective in picking and choosing those parts of Lake County they are interested in serving.

I have a message for those who might oppose this project. You will be accountable to the residents of Central and North Central Lake County, for arguing against health services located closer to their homes, schools and workplaces. You will be accountable to local Fire Chiefs and EMS Directors, who are here today to advocate for our proposed emergency services facility. And you will be accountable to policymakers and the public, for arguing against improved service delivery by the one health system in Lake County that serves as the safety net hospital provider.

As for Advocate Health System, you need to explain how any opposition you have to our project squares with your recent application to build a hospital in nearby Round Lake, and with your recent Letter of Intent to establish a Freestanding Emergency Center in Round Lake. Before you acquired Condell, you had plenty of arguments in support of the compelling need for hospital and emergency medical services in the area.

For Vista, this is pretty simple. We want to make sure all the residents of Lake County have access to high quality health services, including emergency medical services. A Freestanding Emergency Center on our Lindenhurst campus will do just that.

Thank you for your time and attention. And thank you to those of you who have come out today to show your support for the Vista Lindenhurst Emergency Center.



Barbara J. Martin

President & CEO

Vista Health System

ILLINOIS STATE SENATE

CAPITOL OFFICE:

321 STATE CAPITOL BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
PHONE: (217) 782-8181
FAX: (217) 782-4450

DISTRICT OFFICE:

908 MUIR AVENUE
LAKE BLUFF, ILLINOIS 60044
PHONE: (847) 735-8181
FAX: (847) 735-8184



COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS II
VICE CHAIRMAN

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
REVENUE

E-MAIL:
SENATOR@LINK30.ORG

TERRY LINK
MAJORITY CAUCUS CHAIR
STATE SENATOR - 30TH DISTRICT

PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of Terry Link, State Senator, 30th District
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010

Good morning. I am happy to testify in support of Vista Health System's proposal to build a Freestanding Emergency Center in Lindenhurst. My name is Terry Link, and I am the State Senator for District 30, which is in Lake County and includes much of Lindenhurst and Waukegan. I am also proud to serve as the Majority Caucus Whip in the Illinois Senate.

I support Vista's plans for one simple reason: I believe in access to health care for everyone. Recently, I was appointed to the board of the Illinois Comprehensive Health Insurance Plan (CHIP), an insurance program that seeks to insure people who are uninsured.

Every single day, Vista Health System demonstrates that it cares about all people in our local communities. Vista's plan to build an emergency center in Lindenhurst is the latest example of that. The Lindenhurst emergency center will improve how well patients recover from illness or injury by reducing the amount of time it takes for people to get to an emergency room.

Vista's plans for a freestanding emergency center fit well with what legislators had in mind when we approved legislation that created the category of freestanding emergency center. Vista's center is designed to improve, in a cost-effective manner, access to emergency medical services.

Senator Terry Link's Public Hearing Testimony
Page Two
May 4, 2010

And, it will reduce the imbalance of emergency services in Lake County. Right now, most emergency medical services are clustered in the eastern and southern parts of Lake County.

There are some people – including some who work at other health care organizations – who will oppose Vista's plans. They will say that the existing emergency center and hospital emergency room facilities in the County are sufficient to care for the entire county. I disagree. People who live in the north and west parts of the county deserve the same access to emergency care as those who live in the south and east parts of the county. The Lindenhurst emergency center will help correct that imbalance.

I would like to make one last point. I would encourage anyone interested in the issue of access to medical care to review Vista Health System's track record on charity care and care for Medicaid patients. Vista is exemplary in its dedication to helping people who are medically underserved. Long before the issue of hospital charity care became the front-page news that it is today, Vista was well ahead of the pack in helping people who are medically underserved. Vista has always extended a hand to all patients who need help, and the freestanding emergency center will help it extend that hand a little farther.

Thank you,



TERRY LINK
Majority Caucus Whip
State Senator
30th District

DISTRICT OFFICE:

976 HILLSIDE AVENUE
ANTIOCH, ILLINOIS 60002
847/838-6200
847/838-2060 FAX
E-Mail: reposmond@aol.com

CAPITOL OFFICE:

201-N STRATTON BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
217/782-8151
217/557-7207 FAX

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



JoAnn D. Osmond
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 61st DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS - PUBLIC SAFETY
HEALTH CARE AVAILABILITY/REPUBLICAN
SPOKESPERSON
INSURANCE - REPUBLICAN SPOKESPERSON
JUDICIAL I - CIVIL LAW
LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION SYSTEMS
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
VETERANS AFFAIRS

PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of Jo Ann Osmond, State Representative, 61st District
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010

Hello. I am here today to show my support for Vista's proposed free-standing emergency center in Lindenhurst. I am JoAnn Osmond of Antioch and I am the state representative for the 61st district. As a legislator, I serve as the Republican Spokesperson on the House Health Care Availability Access committee. The issues of access to health care and access to emergency care are extremely important to me – both professionally and personally.

The Illinois General Assembly recently created the Freestanding Emergency Center (FEC) category to provide better access to emergency medical services to people who live near relatively small municipalities, such as Lindenhurst. By definition and legislative design, an FEC must:

- Be located in a community with fewer than 75,000 residents;
- Have a strong relationship with a hospital within 20 miles of the freestanding center; and
- Be integrated within the regional EMS System.

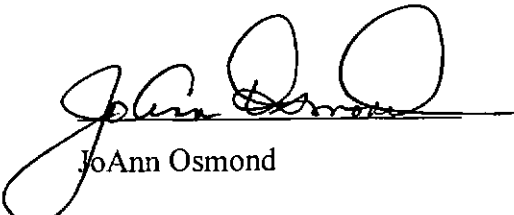
Vista's plan for a freestanding emergency center at the Lindenhurst outpatient surgery facility is the perfect example of what legislators had in mind when we passed the legislation to create the FEC category. The Lindenhurst emergency center would be controlled by Vista East Hospital in Waukegan, which has a Level Two Trauma Center. As I understand it, Vista's plan is designed to meet all the statutory and regulatory requirements for service, location and integration with the EMS system, and hospital

control. In fact, Vista East Medical Center is the Resource Hospital for the regional EMS System.

The Lindenhurst FEC will help address the tremendous need for better access to emergency care in northern and western Lake County. The FEC is the latest example of Vista Health System's steadfast commitment to providing health care to all people in Lake County. Vista's day-in and day-out record of service to uninsured and Medicaid patients is second to none. Its commitment to emergency care is the same.

On a personal note, I would like to share this story. In 2002, my husband Tim, who was a state legislator, died of a heart attack. After I became an Illinois legislator, I fought for better public health funding and sponsored the law that today requires Auto External Defibrillators (AEDs) at all indoor physical fitness facilities operated by a park district, municipality, school or university. I remain strongly committed to my vision that all Illinois residents should have access to life-saving emergency care when they need it. Vista's FEC will help fulfill that vision.

Thank you.



JoAnn Osmond

**ILLINOIS HEALTH FACILITIES PLANNING BOARD
INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS FOR MATT ROBBINS
REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
ADVOCATE NORTH REGION**

**VISTA LINDENHURST FEC
PROJECT 10-018
MAY 4, 2010**

Good Morning, my name is Matt Robbins and I am the regional vice president of business development for north region for Advocate Health Care. Advocate is a not-for-profit faith-based health care system related to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the United Church of Christ. I thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns regarding the proposed Vista Lindenhurst Freestanding Emergency Center application.

As you know through our work with this Board over the last several years, Advocate has focused on responding to the need for increased access to care in Lake County. Because Condell has been serving the residents of Lake County for over 80 years as a comprehensive, not-for-profit hospital, we believed that the integration of Condell Medical Center into Advocate Health Care presented the best avenue for addressing Lake County needs. In conducting an independent poll of Lake County residents we learned that one of the greatest healthcare concerns in the county was for Level I emergency services. We heeded that concern and have just recently completed a major expansion of the Condell Emergency Department and have established the only Level I Trauma Center in the county.

Condell joined the Advocate family in December of 2008. As part of Illinois' largest hospital system, Condell was afforded immediate access to comprehensive system resources and financial stability. Advocate has a nationally recognized reputation for clinical excellence, technological innovations, advanced emergency care and trauma centers.

A critical component of Advocate's commitment to the Board, to Condell, and the residents of Lake County was moving forward with Condell Medical Center's existing plans for expansion of facilities and services. In particular, Advocate committed to continued funding and construction of an expanded emergency department, a bed tower expansion, and pursuit of designation as a Level I trauma center.

During the first year of integration, the emergency department expansion has been completed and Condell has achieved Chest Pain Center accreditation and Level I Trauma Center status. As of October 1, 2009, Condell is the county's first and only Level I Trauma Center, allowing the region's most critically injured patients to have immediate access to advanced trauma care. As Dr. Maloney will explain, the requirements for Level I Trauma are demanding and the costs high. The financial losses of Level I Trauma can only be mitigated, in part through a fully utilized Emergency Department. These Level I Trauma services benefit all Lake County residents, including Lindenhurst and Lake Villa. The potential loss of 7,000 ER visits due to a new FEC will seriously undermine our trauma investment.

Since Condell joined Advocate, we have been pleased with the outpouring of support and excitement we have received from the community as well as our associates and medical staff. In adherence with the Board's rules, Advocate and Condell proposed a partnership that achieved what neither would have accomplished separately: minimizing the duplication of services and further utilizing the significant capital resources to establish a tertiary-care level of services at Condell.

Virtually every facility in the Planning area has excess Emergency Department capacity. We ask that the Review Board follow their rules on need and not approve this project until the Emergency Department projects recently approved by the Board have opportunity achieve the utilization expected by the Board.



Health Department and
Community Health Center

Irene T. Pierce, MSN
Executive Director

Administrative Services
3010 Grand Avenue
Waukegan, Illinois 60085-2309
Phone 847 377 8000
Fax 847 360 3056

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of Irene T. Pierce, MSN,
Executive Director, Lake County Health Department
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010**

Good morning. My name is Irene T. Pierce and I am the Executive Director of the Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center. The Lake County Health Department is the largest human service provider in Lake County. We believe that services must be made available to all people -- without barriers. Our six Health Department community health centers offer a broad spectrum of medical and dental services for low-income and medically underserved individuals. No residents are turned away because they are unable to pay.

Lake County's population grew from 179,097 in 1950 to 713,000 thru 2006, the latest recognized estimates available from the US Census Bureau. During the five years of 2002-2006, Lake County's population increased about 14,000 per year. According to the Lake County Regional Framework Plan Lake County's population is projected to continue increasing through the 2020 horizon. The fastest population growth is projected to occur in northwestern Lake County.

This population growth and development in some areas of Lake County cause unintended impacts on traffic, infrastructure and public services such as hospitals. The Lake County Regional Framework Plan recognizes the need for hospitals to be within a reasonable driving distance for all residents. Significant energies have gone into managing the growth of Lake County to assure healthy and productive lifestyles for its residents. The Lake County Regional Framework Plan specifically encourages a hospital presence in northwest Lake County.

One component of the Health Department's mission is to evaluate the effectiveness, accessibility and quality of personal and population-based health services in Lake County. In our 2010-2012 Strategic Plan, one of our three goals is to assure access to health services. This includes a

commitment to supporting and implementing strategies to increase access to care for all Lake County residents.

One of the priorities of the Lake County Board of Health is to make sure our citizens have the best possible access to health care services. Our six community health centers in Waukegan, Zion, North Chicago, Highland Park and Round Lake Beach, are located within federally designated medically underserved populations or medically underserved areas. In 2009, we handled more than 150,000 medical visits and 32,000 dental visits to 46,000 unduplicated patients. Many of the clients we see are uninsured or underinsured.

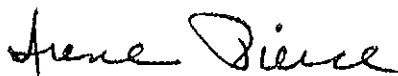
All citizens also need access to hospital services. Residents in the Waukegan area are fortunate to be close to the Vista East and Vista West hospitals. The same holds true for the residents of Lake Forest, Highland Park, Libertyville and Barrington. All are served by fine hospitals that are readily accessible.

We believe residents in the north and west parts of Lake County require similar access, and that does not exist now. In order to ensure reasonable access for all of Lake County's residents, we strongly support a plan to build a freestanding emergency center in northwest Lake County.

The Department, especially through its Community Health Center, has a long and positive work history with all of our providers; from providing services for the uninsured and underinsured, to our recent specialty care and diagnostic project for the uninsured, this applicant has always been approachable for new initiatives to address the health issues of Lake County.

In closing, we urge the Illinois Health Faculties Planning Board to approve a plan for new freestanding emergency center in northwestern Lake County.

Thank you.



Irene Picce



**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of DR. KENJI OYASU
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010**

As a parent of young children, I know how suddenly accidents can happen during the day and how high fevers can spike in the middle of the night requiring emergency care. Getting my children quickly to an emergency room for care is important. As medical director of Vista Health System's Emergency Services, I know how every minute truly counts in an emergency to save a life, especially for those suffering from a medical emergency.

I fully support Vista's plans to construct another emergency room at the Lindenhurst site. There is a tremendous need for better access to emergency care in this part of the county. A freestanding emergency center (FEC) in Lindenhurst will significantly improve access to emergency health care for all residents in Lake County. It will have a particularly positive impact on access to emergency services for the uninsured and Medicaid recipient residents who live in the rapidly-growing north central and northwestern portions of the county.

The Illinois General Assembly recently created the freestanding emergency center licensure category in order to afford better access to emergency medical services to residents near relatively small municipalities, such as Lindenhurst. Vista's Lindenhurst emergency center will operate under the direction of Vista Medical Center East's comprehensive emergency department. Vista Medical Center East is a Level II Trauma Center, an accredited chest pain center and a certified primary stroke center. Vista Medical Center East is also the only resource hospital for the Northern Lake County Emergency Medical Services System.



The FEC will be adjacent to the Vista Surgery and Treatment Center at the Lindenhurst campus, allowing immediate access to diagnostic imaging and lab services. It will have six treatment rooms and a trauma room. The proposed FEC will benefit the medically underserved patient populations in the projected service area by affording them access to an emergency facility with EMTALA treatment obligations. Vista Health System has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the uninsured and Medicaid populations in Lake County. The FEC will be staffed with nurses and board-certified physicians 24/7 who are fully prepared to begin initial treatment and stabilize all medical, pediatric and traumatic emergency patients.

Every resident of northwestern Lake County, Illinois, and southwestern Kenosha County, Wisconsin, deserves easily accessible emergency care. A significant number of these residents live more than a 30 minute drive from the closest hospital, and if traffic is congested, it can take them as long as 45 minutes to get emergency medical treatment. Since Vista Health System cannot improve travel times in Lake County to ensure these residents get the care they need when they need it, Vista can do the next best thing by building a freestanding emergency care center closer to where they need it.

Thank you,



Kenji Oyasu, M.D.
Medical Director and Chair, Emergency Department, Vista Health System
EMS Medical Director, North Lake County EMS System

Vista Health's FEC Application Statement for Public Hearing May 4, 2010

Susan Milford

Good morning, my name is Susan Milford, Vice President for Strategic Marketing and Planning for Centegra Health System and I am here today on behalf of the entire Centegra Health System Executive Team. Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today regarding Vista Health Systems' proposed new Freestanding Emergency Center Application.

Centegra Health System, a not-for-profit provider of healthcare services, has its roots in McHenry County but it has served residents of northwestern Lake County for many years. Centegra Hospital-McHenry is just 5 miles from the Lake County border and its Primary Service Area (PSA) encompasses both McHenry and Lake County communities. Centegra Hospital-McHenry is a convenient and accessible option for care for many of the communities that Vista envisions serving.

Centegra Health System wishes to address concerns about the adverse impact the Vista application may have on our community.

Vista's application does not meet the rules of the state's Health Facilities and Services Review Board and should not be approved. In order to receive the favorable approval of the Board, it is incumbent upon every applicant to demonstrate substantial compliance with the rules and regulations which were drafted with the goal of "improving the financial ability of the public to obtain necessary health services and to establish an orderly and comprehensive healthcare delivery system that will guarantee the availability of quality health care to the general public."

More now than ever before, with Healthcare Reform at the forefront, and the fact that this project has been allowed to proceed through a very narrow exception to a new law prohibiting Freestanding Emergency Centers in Illinois, it is important for these rules to be followed. Nonetheless, even a cursory review of the Vista application reveals that the proposal for a new Freestanding Emergency Center falls well short of the mark because, quite simply, it fails to meet the most basic standards applicable to a project of this type.

According to IDHP rules to establish a Freestanding Emergency Center, Vista must document an area of need. Vista's proposal refers to a need to address a medically-underserved area in the far northeastern portion of their Geographical Service Area; however, their stated purpose of a new Freestanding Emergency Center seeks to improve the accessibility of emergency services for residents of the north central and northwestern Lake County areas.

Also, according to the most recent public hospital profiles for 2008, both Vista emergency departments are well under the 2,000 patients per treatment room threshold. At Vista East, they treated 26,469 patients in 31 emergency rooms, resulting in 1,176 patients per treatment room. At Vista West, they treated 12,018 patients in 11 rooms, resulting in 1,092 patients per treatment room.

In addition, the Vista application represents an unnecessary and costly duplication of services in Lake County and nearby McHenry County that will negatively impact the existing providers of emergency care. There is an excess capacity at all existing emergency departments in the area. The currently existing systems in the areas of impact can together maintain healthy communities without the addition of new buildings. A new Freestanding Emergency Center will not be well-received in light of Healthcare Reform. Health systems must show fiscal and environmental responsibility and this proposed duplication of services does not reflect such responsibility.

In closing, we applaud the efforts of the Health Facilities and Services Review Board and staff to ensure the sustainability of the healthcare delivery system in the State of Illinois for many years to come. In order to achieve this very noble purpose, it is important that all applicants be held accountable to substantial compliance with the applicable rules and regulations. Vista's application fails in at least three critical ways:

- 1) Vista has failed to demonstrate need
- 2) Vista has failed to demonstrate that their proposal is the most efficient use of resources
- 3) Vista's proposed new Freestanding Emergency Center will create an unnecessary duplication of services.

If the members of the Board concur that Vista has failed to comply with the rules in these respects, then the ~~path is self-evident~~.

Thank you.

↳ This FEC project must be denied



Village of Lindenhurst

2301 E. Sand Lake Road
Lindenhurst, Illinois 60046-8934

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of SUSAN LAHR
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010**

I've talked with and listened to many residents of this community in my position as Mayor of Lindenhurst. One thing I hear over and over is that, "we need access to emergency health care close to home."

That's why it is so important to me to help bring Vista Health System's new emergency center to Lindenhurst. Vista has a proven track record of providing exceptional health care for the residents of Lake County.

Vista's proposed emergency center will complement the 27-acre outpatient medical care campus that already exists in Lindenhurst. Here, residents have access to extensive diagnostic and treatment services that will benefit patients who visit the emergency center. And, unlike the emergency center in Grayslake, Vista's Lindenhurst campus has an approved heliport, which enhances emergency care for our residents.

I have worked closely with Vista for several years and have found they are open and upfront with their plans, they have answered any questions that village officials have had, and they have followed through on their promises.

Lindenhurst's overall and elderly populations are expected to steadily increase in the coming years. Vista's plans fit with our commitment to positive growth. I wholeheartedly support Vista in its plans to build a new emergency center in Lindenhurst. Today, I'm asking the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board to approve this emergency center for Lindenhurst and its residents.

Susan Lahr



Public Hearing Testimony to the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
In Opposition to Project 10-018
Vista Health System Freestanding Emergency Center, Lindenhurst, Illinois
Presented by Mathew T. Koschmann, Vice President, Business Development
Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital
May 4, 2010

My name is Matt Koschmann, and I am a Vice President at Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital. I would like to submit comments in opposition of Vista's proposal to establish a Freestanding Emergency Center at their facility in Lindenhurst.

We operate a Freestanding Emergency Center at our Grayslake Outpatient Campus less than six (6) miles from the site of Vista's proposed FEC. The Planning Board granted us a Certificate of Need for our FEC in December of 2008, and our facility has been in operation for a little over six months.

Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital has operated an Acute Care Center at our Grayslake site since 2004. We chose to convert the facility to an FEC last year in order to accept ambulances and bring emergency services closer to patients who may be a thirty minute car ride or more from an emergency room. We invested in round-the-clock board certified emergency medicine physicians and gave our staff additional training to be able to treat sicker patients.

Once we completed our work with IDPH to license the new facility, we engaged local EMS leaders including Advocate Condell Medical Center – our resource hospital – to collaboratively develop protocols allowing ambulances to use our center. Our Grayslake FEC has cut hours off of EMS and ambulance transport times, and has provided patients in northwest Lake County with faster access to the care they need. EMS and local fire departments have been extremely supportive of our center, and we thank them for working collaboratively with us on this important community health initiative.

While we have seen a successful start to improved emergency services in this part of the region, our Grayslake FEC is not yet at capacity. While we are ramping up, our center is below the state guidelines by about 2,500 visits per year looking at recent patient activity data. If Vista were allowed to open their FEC less than fifteen minutes from the Grayslake facility, this would bring our patient volume down further below the State standard.

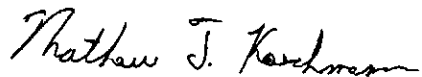
A second FEC so close to our center would unnecessarily duplicate the services we are providing to patients in the northwest part of Lake County. Further, our Grayslake center along with several hospital ED's in the Planning Area have available capacity. The Vista

FEC would compromise the investments we have made in our facilities, physicians, and nurses, and could jeopardize our ability to continue to provide emergency services to communities in northwest Lake County.

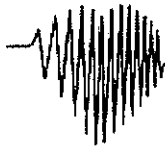
Approving a second FEC would not help bring better emergency services in the region, and would work against the Planning Board's intended goal of ensuring a rational and effective delivery system. If these services are allowed to be duplicated, then our best efforts will be marginalized, and possibly the efforts of other area providers will be marginalized as well.

We respectfully ask the Planning Board to deny Vista's proposed establishment of a Freestanding Emergency Center.

Sincerely,



Mathew T. Koschmann
Vice President, Business Development
Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital



CARDIAC SURGERY ASSOCIATES, S.C.

Rudolph A. Allergott, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Mamdouh Bakhos, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Andrew R. Barksdale, M.D.
Bradford P. Blakeman, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Juan J. Bonilla, M.D., F.A.C.S.
David M. Cheng, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Elizabeth C. Colaiuta, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Ronald M. Cossman, M.D.
David J. Cziperle, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Michael J. DaValle, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Zev Davis, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Bryan K. Foy, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Nicola A. Francalancia, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Marc W. Gerdisch, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.A.C.C.

John F. Golan, M.D., F.A.C.S.
James A. Gramm, M.D., F.A.C.S.
John G. Grieco, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Thomas J. Hinkamp, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Bryan K. Lee, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Frank J. Lutrin, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Peter H. Marks, M.D., F.A.C.S.
David R. Onsager, M.D.
Manesh Parikhshak, M.D.
Vitaly V. Piliuko, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.A.C.C.P.
Jeffrey P. Schwartz, M.D., F.A.C.S.
J. Michael Tuschek, D.O., F.A.C.S.
James J. Walsh, M.D., F.A.C.S.

PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY of DAVID CZIPERLE, MD PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER) MAY 4, 2010

My name is Dr. David Cziperle and I am a board-certified cardiovascular and thoracic surgeon. I practice with Cardiac Surgery Associates and I also serve as medical director of the open-heart surgery program at Vista Health System. I fully support Vista's endeavor to build a freestanding emergency center in Lindenhurst.

Vista has time and again demonstrated its commitment to provide Lake County residents with quality cardiac care. I am constantly amazed by its willingness to invest in diagnostic and treatment technology that improves access to emergency heart care. Vista recently completed a 2,200 square foot expansion of its EP/Cath Lab. This is the *only* state-of-the-art Electrophysiology Lab of its kind in Lake County.

Many residents in this county live in close proximity to multiple emergency care facilities. Unfortunately, the communities in north central and northwestern Lake County have not been as fortunate. For some residents in those communities, the drive time can be more than 30 minutes because they travel on congested highways, around lakes and over busy railroad tracks.

A freestanding emergency center in that area would provide life-saving time, which is, crucial during a heart emergency. Vista's proposed FEC in Lindenhurst will include six treatment rooms and a trauma room. These rooms will be just steps away from diagnostic and surgical equipment at the Vista Surgery Center.

Upon arrival to the Lindenhurst FEC, patients experiencing chest pain will receive a 12-lead ECG within 10 minutes. If the patient is having a heart attack, a "cardiac alert" will be initiated and the Cath Lab team will provide immediate intervention when the patient arrives at Vista's east location. A critical care ambulance or use of the area's only heliport will ensure that patients are quickly transported to the acute care hospital.

In my area of specialty it is often said that time saved is heart muscle saved. This is not unique to one segment of the population. It is true for all.

I urge the State Planning Board to act in the best interests of all Lake County residents and approve Vista Health System's Certificate of Need for a Lindenhurst emergency center.



David Czipenie, M.D.



**ILLINOIS HEALTH FACILITIES PLANNING BOARD
WILLIAM MALONEY, M.D.
INFINITY HEALTHCARE**

**VISTA LINDENHURST FEC
PROJECT 10-018
MAY 4, 2010**

My name is Dr. William Maloney. I have practiced Emergency Medicine for nearly 20 years and am the Medical Director of the Emergency Department at Advocate Condell Medical Center.

Prior to coming to Condell, I was directing the Emergency Department at St. Francis Hospital in Evanston, which at the time was the only Level 1 Trauma Center in Region X, the highest such designation by the state. During my years of practice at St. Francis I was a member of the Region X Trauma committee, and repeatedly saw data showing large numbers of patients from the northern portion of the region, i.e., Lake County, leaving the area or even the state to get trauma and other emergency care.

I am very proud of the many improvements at Condell in the past few years. I helped design our recently completed Emergency Department expansion. The facility expansion design allowed for improved privacy and individualized care areas, including new state of the art trauma bays and a separate Pediatric Emergency Care area. The new department provides almost 50% more treatment areas than before. This facility expansion represented a large commitment of resources by Condell to the residents of Lake County.

Through my years of practice in the northern suburbs, it became clear to me a number of years ago that there was a need for Level 1 Trauma Center services in Lake County. I am very proud to be part of the organization that stepped up to provide this critical service. Condell received Level 1 Trauma Center designation effective October 1, 2009, benefiting all residents of Lake County. And in these few months, I have seen first-hand how we have been able to significantly impact people's lives.

801 SOUTH MILWAUKEE AVENUE
LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048

PHONE 847-990-5522



A Level I Trauma Center requires that a trauma surgeon be on-site 24/7, an OR surgery suite, anesthesiology and surgical staff available in-house around the clock, specialist surgeons available within thirty minutes, and specialized equipment and clinical staff training. All of these requirements are, of course, requisite to achieving the best possible patient outcomes at these most critical times. To provide this level of service requires significant and on-going investment of substantial financial resources on the part of the hospital. This intensive medical care is not reimbursed in a way that covers the actual cost of providing it. The hospital must be able cross-subsidize a Level I trauma program with enough routine emergency volume to be sustainable.

The proposed Vista FEC threatens Condell's ability to sustain the routine emergency volumes we depend on to keep Level I trauma services financially viable. At the same time, I believe that there is significant mis-information about what is available at a freestanding facility like the one that Vista is proposing. Patients showing symptoms of a life threatening condition are almost never taken to an FEC by ambulance. For example, a patient that appears to be having a heart attack or a stroke would be taken directly to a full service hospital by EMS. That is because FECs are not equipped to handle such patients. Additionally, the Vista application indicates that the large majority of its patients will come via ambulance to its FEC. I don't understand how this could be possible. Condell receives just 22 percent of its patients via ambulance. A facility that is less than full service, such as an FEC, would likely see an even smaller percentage of its patients arrive via EMS.

To summarize my testimony here today, I am concerned about the impact of the proposed FEC. While trauma cases would not be redirected to a freestanding center, there would be less overall emergency volume to support the provision of Level I Trauma services. I grant you that an FEC may be more convenient for some patients. However, convenience is not the same as need. For this reason, I urge the Board to deny Vista's Certificate of Need application. This facility is not needed, and it will divert a substantial volume of routine emergency visits which are required to ensure the ongoing sustainability of our Level I Trauma Center.

Thank you.

801 SOUTH MILWAUKEE AVENUE
LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048

PHONE 847-990-5522

ASSOCIATES FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH, S.C.

MARTIN J. WEINER, M.D.
JAIME E. PEREA, M.D.
SHERI L. SCHREIBER, M.D.
SHERRY A. OWEN, APN
MARY L. THILGES, APN
ISABEL CLOP, APN
JUNE HOMAN, APN

3 SOUTH GREENLEAF, SUITE A
GURNEE, ILLINOIS 60031
(847) 244-0222
FAX (847) 244-7122

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of DR. MARTIN WEINER
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010**

My name is Dr. Martin Weiner and I am an obstetrician practicing in Gurnee and a member of Vista Medical Center East's staff.

In recent years, the relative affordability of homes in this area has resulted in a population explosion of young families. I can't begin to tell you how many of my patients in labor have found themselves stuck in traffic on Grand Avenue or Belvidere Road frantically trying to get to a hospital before the baby's head crowns. If there were an emergency center in Lindenhurst then these women would no longer have to worry about the possibility of delivering their baby in the car

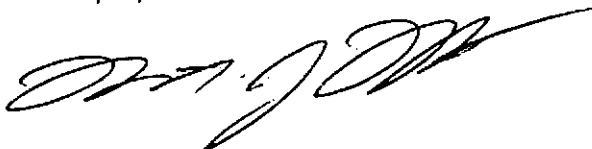
Allowing Vista to proceed with its plans to build a long-past-due emergency room in Lindenhurst will improve access to health care in emergency situations, specifically those requiring basic life support services. I enthusiastically support the certificate of need application that Vista Health System has filed with the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board to build a freestanding emergency center in Lindenhurst.

The property is easy to find, as it is just off of Grand Avenue and near Deep Lake Road, which are two main roads that are well traveled in that part of the county. Locating an emergency room there would be invaluable to my patients and their families.

If treated in that emergency room, adults and children would have also have immediate access to the surgery center's blood lab and CT, open MRI, X-ray and ultrasound machines (which can be used for general, OB and vascular ultrasounds). Imagine the relief of a mother who hears that her son's ankle is sprained and not broken after an accident at soccer practice.

I can attest to the quality medical care that Vista Health System provides to its patients and fully support this addition of emergency services for the people of north central and northwestern Lake County.

Thank you,



Martin Weiner, M.D.



**ILLINOIS HEALTH FACILITIES PLANNING BOARD
CHARLES NOZICKA, D.O.
INFINITY HEALTHCARE**

**VISTA LINDENHURST FEC
PROJECT 10-018
MAY 4, 2010**

My name is Dr. Charles Nozicka. I have practiced Emergency Medicine for pediatric patients for 20 years and am the Medical Director of the Pediatric Emergency Department at Advocate Condell Medical Center.

Advocate Condell has the only state-designated pediatric emergency department in the Lake County area, providing emergency care for children from infants through teens. You may ask, "What makes Condell's Pediatric Emergency Department different than the other facilities in the area?" My response is that Condell has invested significantly in developing a program with sub-specialized physicians, certified in both Emergency Medicine and Pediatrics. In addition to the specialized physicians, Condell has devoted significant teaching and continuing education to all physicians, nurses, and technical staff. Cognizant of the fact that accidents are the number one cause of death in children and teens, Condell has invested in the necessary equipment providing us the proper tools to care for this very important subset of patients.

Further, Condell's Pediatric Emergency Department, recently completed as part of the emergency department expansion project, provides a dedicated space with kid-friendly rooms and a separate pediatric waiting area. For those who have had the experience of taking a child to an emergency department, you clearly recognize the importance of these individualized pediatric care areas. Children are frightened enough without the added challenges of incoming traumas or patients requiring chemical detoxification. Further, crying children or siblings are often additional environmental stressor for ailing adults.



As a Pediatric Emergency Department physician, I clearly recognize the investment in the community made by Condell, both in specialized care providers and in facility expansion. In part, Condell was able to develop a Pediatric Emergency Department because of the community need, as measured by the volume of pediatric patients seen within the emergency department.

I am proud that the organization made the choice to develop a program based upon the community need; I have great concern that the proposed project will impact the viability of the Pediatric Emergency Department at Condell. An additional emergency facility that will impact Condell by reducing the number of patients may threaten this specialized pediatric care. I respectfully urge the Illinois Health Facilities Services and Review Board to be aware of the impact to the entire county.

Thank you.

Dr. Charles A. Nozicka
Medical Director
Pediatric Emergency Medicine
Advocate Condell Medical Center
Clinical Associate Professor Emergency Medicine
Rosalind Franklin University

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:
200-85 STRATTON BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
217-558-1012
FAX: 217-558-1092

DISTRICT OFFICE:
141 S. GENESEE, SUITE A
WAUKEGAN, ILLINOIS 60085
847-623-0060
FAX: 847-623-6078

E-MAIL: WASHINGTON60TH@AOL.COM



EDDIE WASHINGTON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 60TH DISTRICT

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- DOWNSTATE CAUCUS
- ENVIRONMENTAL

PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of Eddie Washington, State Representative, 60th District
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010

I am Eddie Washington, State Representative for the 60th District of Illinois, which includes Waukegan, North Chicago and Park City. I am here today to express my support for Vista Health System's application to build a Freestanding Emergency Center in Lindenhurst.

I have been an activist my whole adult life, working for parity and justice for those who are often denied it. Access to health care – or the lack of access to health care – is one of the most important human rights issues of our time. In my work with the Lake County Urban League, the NAACP and the John Howard Association, I have seen first-hand how important it is for everyone, regardless of their life circumstances, to have access to health care.

I am happy to say that Vista Health System agrees with me. Over the past several years, I have worked closely with Vista, because their two hospitals are in my district. I have been happy to see the many improvements Vista has made to Vista East and Vista West in Waukegan. There are too many to list, but I'll mention a few.

They are:

- Renovated the Intensive Care Unit at Vista East. It's now the largest ER in Lake County.
- Re-opened emergency medical services at Vista West.
- Added an open-heart surgery program at Vista East. And,
- Expanded behavior health care and inpatient rehab services at Vista West.

Vista East and Vista West serve a great number of people who come from disadvantaged communities. Vista serves as the "safety net" hospital provider for our county. In fact, Vista's two hospitals serve more Medicaid patients than all five other hospitals in Lake County – combined. Since 2007, during this "Great Recession," the number of Medicaid patients that Vista East has served has jumped by more than 65 percent.

That should be no surprise – if you understand Lake County.

While the overall unemployment rate for the region that includes Lake County was 13 percent in March of this year, the cities in my district have been hit much harder. For example, North Chicago's unemployment rate was 21.4 percent. And, in Waukegan, unemployment was 18.7 in March, according to the Illinois Department of Employment Security.

Vista is located right in the middle of the part of the county where there are a large number of people who are economically disadvantaged. The other hospitals in Lake County are in more affluent parts of the county, so they don't receive as many charity care or Medicaid patients. I am worried that unless Vista Health System is able to achieve a better balance of patients – meaning a greater proportion of those who have insurance – that it won't be able to continue to provide health care to the neediest residents of our county.

In closing, I'd like to remind everyone that Vista has always done what it said it was going to do. It has always said it would take care of everyone – including our neediest

residents. Now, it wants to serve the north and west parts of Lake County with a Freestanding Emergency Center. I believe the emergency center should be approved.

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact me at my district office. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eddie Washington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "W".

Eddie Washington
IL State Representative 60th District
Waukegan, North Chicago, City of Park City

Vista Health's FEC Application Statement for Public Hearing May 4, 2010

Dr. Keenan

Good morning, my name is Dr. Joseph B. Keenan, Medical Director of Emergency Services for Centegra Health System and I thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today regarding Vista Health Systems' proposed new Freestanding Emergency Center Application.

This proposed Freestanding Emergency Center in Lindenhurst would accept only patients with Basic Life Support needs, not those in need of Advanced Life Support. Centegra Hospital-McHenry (formerly Northern Illinois Medical Center) treats thousands of patients each year from the McHenry Western Lake County Emergency Medical System with both Basic Life Support and Advanced Life Support needs.

The health and well-being of our community is the top priority for Centegra Health System. We want our neighbors to get the right level of care in the right amount of time. This proposed Freestanding Emergency Center will not be equipped to handle crisis situations such as heart attacks. If someone walks into this facility with a heart attack, he or she will be transported to the nearest ~~trauma center~~ at a time when "minutes are muscle" and transport time is critical.

Full service Emergency Department

In the Vista application, Fox Lake is included in its Geographic Service Area. According to the McHenry Western Lake County EMS Annual Report, the average transport time from the Fox Lake area to our McHenry facility is 15 minutes. The possibility exists that hundreds of those patients could travel more than 30 minutes instead if they were first transported to a Lindenhurst facility, then additionally transferred to a full-service ED.

Currently, Centegra Hospital-McHenry sees an average of 1,625 patients per year, per treatment room, under the Illinois Department of Public Health threshold of 2,000 patients per year, per treatment room. This clearly indicates that Centegra Hospital-McHenry can support additional volume and that a new Freestanding Emergency Center nearby is not necessary.

Providers such as Centegra and others have addressed issues regarding access to emergency care service through recent expansion and upgrades. Centegra Hospital-McHenry's Emergency Department is in the midst of an expansion process that will increase patient throughput and streamline observation without the costly addition of a new building. The number of hours that the Centegra Hospital-McHenry Emergency Department has been on bypass is 2.58 hours since July 1, 2009, a significant decrease that will be further supported by our expansion. Our renovation and expansion is the result of due diligence and proven to be the most cost-effective and most fiscally prudent way to meet increasing community demands.

The Vista application for a Freestanding Emergency Center does not show the same fiscal responsibility. It does, however, represent an unnecessary and costly duplication of services in Lake County and nearby McHenry County that will negatively impact the existing providers of emergency care.

I thank you for your time and attention today.

J. Keenan 5/24/10



**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
Of DR. RICHARD MARGOLIN
PROJECT # 10-018, VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER
MAY 4, 2010**

My name is Dr. Richard Margolin. I strongly believe that it's necessary to build an emergency care center in Lindenhurst that provides better health care access to tens of thousands of west and north Lake County residents.

I host a weekly radio show called "Doctor's on Call" and I interview other physicians about common health topics. One topic we can all agree on is the need to provide patients suffering from a serious illness or injury with immediate care. Quick response time and proper diagnosis is essential to saving lives. This proposed free-standing emergency center will provide that to Lake County residents.

The road systems we have in place as well as the numerous lakes in our area impede emergency vehicles as they're transporting patients to the nearest hospital. It is extremely difficult to navigate through Lake County. Imagine riding in the back of an ambulance with your injured child and being unable to reach the hospital because of congested roads. It could and does happen.

Vista's proposed Lindenhurst emergency center would pair up well with the Vista Surgery Center that would be next door. And, the 27-acre Lindenhurst campus includes a helipad, which allows for transfer to an acute care hospital.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak to you about this project. I ask that you approve Vista Health System's proposal to build a free-standing emergency center in Lindenhurst.

Sincerely,


Richard Margolin, MD

Waukegan Clinic Corporation
A Vista Health System Corporation

Family Practice:

Dr. Mamma Gladson
Dr. Young Lee
Dr. Terry Joy
Dr. Amy Swift-Johnson
Dr. Dennis Thain
Dr. Robert Thain
Dr. Daisy Angaleon
Dr. Pedro Poluyan
Dr. Richard Margolin
Dr. Kimberly Morstadt

1050 Red Oak Lane, Lindenhurst, IL 60046
701 14th Street, North Chicago, IL 60064
300 N. Milwaukee, Lake Villa, IL 60046
300 N. Milwaukee, Lake Villa, IL 60046
707 Main Street, Antioch, IL 60003
707 Main Street, Antioch, IL 60003
300 N. Milwaukee, Lake Villa, IL 60046
2606 Elisha Avenue, Zion, IL 60098
15 Commerce Drive, Grayslake, IL 60030
15 Commerce Drive, Grayslake, IL 60030

Neurosurgery:

Dr. James Adamson

200 S. Greenleaf, Gurnee, IL 60031

Hospitalist:

Dr. Hafsa Karingada
Dr. Nelly Kvirikadze
Dr. Mushtaq Mohammed

1324 North Sheridan Road, Waukegan, IL 60085
1324 North Sheridan Road, Waukegan, IL 60085
1324 North Sheridan Road, Waukegan, IL 60085

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation:

Dr. Joseph Craig
Dr. Janaki Natarajan

2615 Washington Street, Waukegan, IL 60082
2615 Washington Street, Waukegan, IL 60082

Dermatologist:

Dr. Neda Kalcevic

30 Tower Court, Gurnee, IL 60031

Psychiatry:

Dr. Uzoma Okoli
Dr. Ari Pogre

2615 Washington Street, Waukegan, IL 60085
2615 Washington Street, Waukegan, IL 60085

**ILLINOIS HEALTH FACILITIES PLANNING BOARD
JUDITH (JODY) JESSE
ADVOCATE CONDELL MEDICAL CENTER
DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**VISTA LINDENHURST FEC
PROJECT # 10-018
MAY 4, 2010**

Thank you for providing this forum for me to express my views concerning the proposed freestanding emergency center in Lindenhurst. My name is Jody Jesse and I am the Director of Emergency Services at Advocate Condell Medical Center.

Condell recently completed the expansion of emergency services, including both the enhancement of clinical services and facility expansion to provide services for at least 64,000 Lake County residents. In the past year, Condell achieved three Lake County firsts in a Pediatric Emergency Department, Chest Pain Center designation, and Level I Trauma Center status. I am opposed to this proposed project because I feel it will compromise our ability to continue to provide these individualized, advanced care services. The reality of health care business is that a certain threshold of patient volume is necessary to provide highly advanced and individualized care services.

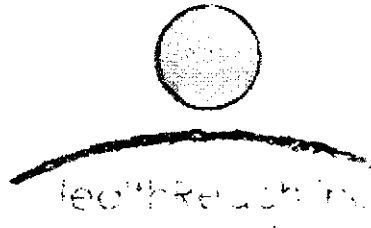
Trauma care is all about positive outcomes. We, at Condell, pushed forward to develop Level I Trauma capabilities because it was the right thing to do for the community. In addition to the 24-hr on-site trauma-trained surgeons and the 24-hr on-site OR team, the hospital provided significant training for the ER and house-wide ancillary services in preparation for trauma patients. We have already seen many positive patient outcomes since launching our program last October making this a win for the entire community.

Additionally, our program partners with multiple educational institutions and are able to help train the next generation of care givers. For the College of Lake County or Rosalind Franklin University, having a local hospital that can provide training experience for the most advanced trauma care is a great win for their students.

In addition to Level I Trauma Center care, Condell has also made significant investment to provide individualized care to all patients entering our Emergency Department, through facility design and a focus on the patient experience. Less than 25% of our patients come to the hospital by ambulance, so we have also focused efforts in fast track capabilities. To the great satisfaction of our patients, Condell invested in LEAN techniques to rapidly assess, treat and discharge patients that do not have acute medical needs and in fact our fast track patients are assessed, diagnosed, treated and discharged in an average of less than 60 minutes. You also heard of the Condell focus on pediatrics emergency care, discussed earlier by Dr. Charles Nozicka. Our Level I Trauma, Pediatrics ED and Fast Track services all demonstrate our commitment to serve the community and each, individual patient need.

As an administrator for emergency services, please understand that advanced, individualized care is supported financially by all patients that come through our doors. In 2009, we served 55,209 patients. With our recent facility expansion, we are capable of providing services to a minimum of 64,000 patients annually. Since the time we were approved for the emergency department expansion project, two (2) other facilities providing emergency care have opened in Lake County – Vista West and more recently Lake Forest Grayslake. Condell has already been impacted by these recently opened facilities and the impact of these will make it very difficult to achieve 64,000 visits two (2) years post completion of our expansion project. If there is yet another facility, it will be impossible to reach our utilization target in the foreseeable future. Our investment in this facility cannot be undone and we firmly believe it is the right thing for the people of Lake County, however please understand that further impacting an organization that has just invested significantly in facility and service enhancement will put the advanced care, specialty services at risk. Trauma I services are not viable without a high volume emergency department. Pediatrics Emergency Department services staffed by physicians boarded in both Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine are not viable without a high volume of pediatric patients - ask any of our local hospital competitors, none provide either Level I Trauma or pediatric services in this manner.

I urge you to consider the long-term benefit of all Lake County residents and reject the proposed project. Thank you.



PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of Jim Zimmerman Executive Director, HealthReach, Inc.
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)

May 04, 2010

Thank you for allowing me to present my testimony on behalf of Vista Health System's proposed Freestanding Emergency Center in Lindenhurst. I am Jim Zimmerman, executive director of HealthReach Incorporated.

HealthReach has been successfully providing increased access to quality medical and pharmaceutical services for the medically uninsured, low income residents of Lake County since 1992. HealthReach and its trained staff of medical professionals deliver a broad range of free primary and specialty care services to more than 4,500 low income and uninsured residents. These services are provided at two free clinics in Waukegan and Mundelein respectively and a state-licensed pharmacy in Libertyville.

While HealthReach is able to provide a wide range of on-site specialty medical services, it cannot provide emergency services. In cases where patients present with acute symptoms that are beyond the capability of our clinics to treat, we refer our patients to an emergency room. Vista's emergency rooms (Vista Medical Center East and Vista Medical Center West) are primary safety net providers for our clients in Waukegan. Our clients who go to Vista for treatment receive quality health care regardless of insurance status. We are thankful for Vista's unwavering and broad range of healthcare support services provided in-kind to HealthReach over the years, and their continued dedication to improving the quality of life for uninsured people.

Ensuring accessible health care for everyone is a national challenge that affects us all. We at HealthReach believe that everyone deserves access to quality health care regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. It is our experience at HealthReach that medically uninsured low income patients who call HealthReach their medical home, are often challenged by transportation. Patients who live in the North and Northwest parts of Lake County struggle to make appointments and get timely acute and emergency care due to lack of free or low cost public transportation and the distance they have to travel to obtain services. HealthReach supports Vista's plans to build a freestanding emergency room in Lindenhurst. The facility's services are needed in this region of the County.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jim Zimmerman", written over a horizontal line.

Jim Zimmerman

**ILLINOIS HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD
KATHY LAPACEK
ADVOCATE CONDELL MEDICAL CENTER
VICE PRESIDENT OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

**VISTA LINDENHURST FEC
PROJECT 10-018
MAY 4, 2010**

Good morning. I am Kathy Lapacek, vice president of business development for Advocate Condell Medical Center. I appreciate the opportunity to share with the Board our significant concerns with proposed free-standing emergency center in Lindenhurst, both in its potential impact to our existing program and with several criteria deficiencies in the application.

As you have already heard from several of my colleagues, Advocate Condell has recently made very significant resource investments to address the needs of the people of Lake County for high quality emergency services including a new emergency department with 32 treatment rooms, a specialized pediatric emergency center and a Level I trauma program which launched in the fall of 2009. With the Board's approval of our ED project in 2006, Condell is required to achieve the state's minimum utilization standards of 2,000 visits per treatment room or 64,000 visits annually within two years of project completion which will be in December of 2011. Additionally, the Review Board's notice of our project completion received in March of this year reiterated that "Failure to comply with any ongoing performance requirements could invalidate the permit and expose the permit holder to any fines, penalties, or other sanctions by the board's Acts and Rules."

In 2009, Condell had 55,209 emergency visits; 43% were from the eight zip codes in the proposed project's Target Population Area. Based on the applicant's assumed market penetration rates as stated in Attachment 74, we estimate that our existing program volumes will decrease by approximately 7,000 visits if this project is approved, thus making it impossible for Condell to even approach the required utilization levels that we committed to achieving.

One of the Board's Review Criteria for establishing an FEC requires the applicant to document that the project will not result in an unnecessary duplication of services, specifically that the project will not lower or lower to a further extent, the utilization of other GSA providers below the state's utilization standards. This project fails this Board rule so dramatically that the project did not even try to address the required rule in its application.

There are currently five providers of emergency services in the proposed facility's GSA as defined in the application's Attachment 23, and each and every one of these existing facilities, including the applicant's own two hospitals are below the state's utilization thresholds. These five facilities have 105 combined treatment rooms and, using the most recent available AHQ volume data, were only achieving ~71% of the minimum utilization standard. This equates to excess capacity within the GSA of more than 60,000 emergency visits. In fact, the applicant's two hospitals, Vista East and Vista West, have the widest gap to achieving utilization targets being at only 59% and 55% emergency room capacity respectively. For the applicant to add another costly program to the same market while they themselves are so far below the state's standards is the classic example of duplication of services. I am including a table with this testimony showing the 2008 visit volume, number of treatment rooms and percent of utilization standards for each existing facility in the defined GSA.

The applicant has indicated in Attachment 22 that "The purpose of this project is to improve the accessibility to emergency services for the residents of north-central and northwestern Lake County." Specifically, to illustrate that there is an accessibility issue they identified three townships that are designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas for primary medical care. These townships are Benton, Waukegan, and Zion; all of which the applicant acknowledges are in the north east portion of the county. While these townships may indeed have a shortage of primary care, this shortage and the primary care needs of the people in these communities will not be served by a FEC located in Lindenhurst, an average of 15 miles and 26 minutes from these underserved areas and with no public transportation access to the proposed FEC site. If people in these underserved communities who need primary care choose to seek that care at an emergency department, it would be much more convenient and likely for them to do so at

one of the existing Vista hospitals which are only an average of 4 to 6 miles from these areas and have at least 40% excess emergency visit capacity. The much more cost efficient and, more importantly, appropriate level of care, for the people in these underserved communities would be to locate primary care physician offices in these neighborhoods, not a costly FEC in a location that will be difficult for them to access. It puzzles me that this much more appropriate option was not even identified by the applicant as an alternative. I have attached a map with this testimony illustrating that the proposed FEC would not be in a location to improve primary care access for people in these northeast Lake County townships.

Additionally, the applicant claims in their purpose of the project that "patients in need of emergency care, as opposed to 'urgent' care, are most often transported to an emergency room by a rescue squad or ambulance." In the alternatives section they, in fact, state that "the success of this project will be measured by shortened EMS transport time." In reality, in our experience at Condell with an emergency room that treats every level of care including trauma, only about 22% of our visits arrive by ambulance or rescue squad. Because an FEC will not receive patients that require advanced life support such as a heart attack or stroke, or even less acute patients that require IV medications or monitoring, that percentage would be far less than 22%. Thus, with the vast majority of patients who would be appropriately treated at this FEC, it would not be a situation where a few minutes would make the difference in their outcome. It is really simply a matter of patient convenience rather than true medical need.

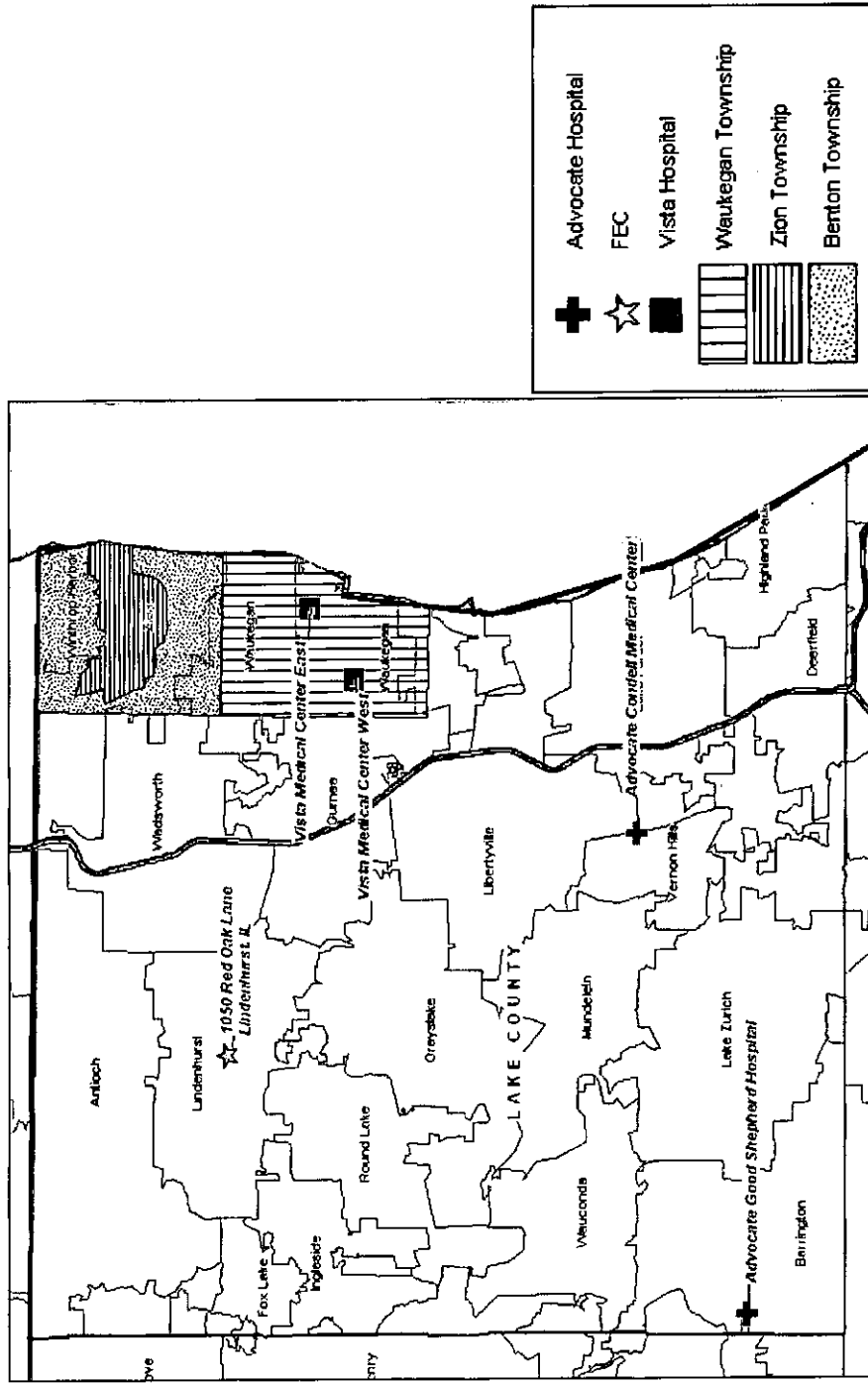
In conclusion, while there perhaps may be a need for this type of facility in this area in the future, there is clearly not a need that can be currently demonstrated using any of the Board's criteria for FEC's and I would respectfully propose that an assessment of healthcare need in Lake County would be best done under the auspices of the Department of Public Health's Center for Comprehensive Health Planning as required by recent law. I thank the Board for your consideration of our concerns about the proposed project and trust that you will also conclude that this application is significantly deficient in complying with the Board's rules.

GSA Emergency Visit Capacity

Existing ED Facilities in GSA	MapQuest Miles	Treatment Rooms	Utilization Standards Volume	2008 ED Volumes	2008 % Capacity	Excess Visit Capacity
Northwestern Lake Forest FEC	7.3 miles	14	28,000	20,000*	71%	8,000
Vista West	12.2 miles	11	22,000	12,018	55%	9,982
Vista East	13.3 miles	31	62,000	36,469	59%	25,531
Advocate Condell	14.6 miles	32	64,000	45,944	72%	18,056
Northwestern Lake Forest	18.3	17	34,000	33,690	99%	310
Total		105	210,000	148,436	71%	61,564

*estimated

Health Professional Shortage Areas



Average Distance for Health Professional Shortage Areas

	Lindenhurst FEC		Vista West		Vista East	
	Miles	Minutes	Miles	Minutes	Miles	Minutes
Zion Township	17	29	9	17	5	11
Benton Township	14.5	22	6.3	11	6.4	14
Waukegan Township	13	27	2.4	8	1	2
Average	14.8	26	5.9	12	4.1	9

Source: MapQuest



Suzi Schmidt
Board Chairman

18 North County Street -10th Floor
Waukegan, Illinois 60085-4351
Phone 847 377 2300
Fax 847 360 7322

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of Suzi Schmidt, Lake County Board Chairman
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010**

I am Suzi Schmidt, chairman of the Lake County Board. I am pleased to be here today to express my support for the Freestanding Emergency Center that Vista Health System is proposing for Lindenhurst.

I have lived in Lake Villa Township for 30 years and have served as an elected official in Lake County for 25 years. During that time, I have seen many dramatic changes in Lake County. The population has grown exponentially over the years and the condition of the roads and the availability of important community services – such as health care – have not always kept up.

This is particularly true in the northwest part of Lake County. In Lake Villa alone, the population jumped 46 percent between 2000 and 2008. In Round Lake, the population skyrocketed by 184 percent from 2000 to 2006. And, we all know how difficult it is to get around on our congested roads. Things aren't so great, either, when it comes to access to health care. Right now a significant number of those of us who reside in Northwestern Lake County live more than 30 minutes away from a hospital – and that's in good traffic, with no road construction and in good weather. I shudder to imagine trying to get to an emergency room in a driving rainstorm, during rush hour.


Vista's emergency center in Lindenhurst will serve the people who live in the northwest part of Lake County. The Lindenhurst emergency center also is another component of Vista's overall commitment to provide safety net health care services to medically underserved people in Lake County.

I am also happy to know that Vista's Lindenhurst emergency center will create approximately 50 jobs in Lake County and bring other economic benefits to the community. As we come out of this horrible recession, that will be a good thing.

Some people might say that those of us who live in Northwest Lake County should just go to the emergency center in Grayslake. I don't think so. That center is not as well-positioned to serve the north central and northwestern parts of the county as Vista's Lindenhurst site is. Patients from the Antioch and Lindenhurst areas deserve quicker access to emergency care than that site offers. It's obvious that, even with the Grayslake center in operation, there is still a demonstrated need for Vista's Lindenhurst emergency center.

Please count me as a supporter of the Lindenhurst emergency center.

Thank you.


Suzi Schmidt

**RAEANN FULLER
MANAGER, INTENSIVE CARE SERVICES
ADVOCATE CONDELL MEDICAL CENTER
OPPOSITION TO PROJECT # 10-018
CHS/VISTA LINDENHURST FREESTANDING EMERGENCY CENTER
MAY 4, 2010**

Good morning, my name is Raeann Fuller and I am the Manager of the Intensive Care Unit at Condell Medical Center. I have worked at Condell for the past 5 years and have been a nurse living in western Lake County for 30 years. I oppose the establishment of a new freestanding emergency center as I feel it will provide duplicate services and result in a delay to definitive care.

As many of you in this room may remember, previously there was an ^{emergency} ~~urgent care center~~ in this Township. The St. Therese Area Treatment Satellite, also known as STATS, provided care from the early 1980s until its closure in 2000. During that period of time I was the Project Director for the North Lake County Emergency Medical Services System and a volunteer paramedic with the Lake Villa Rescue Squad. I opposed that facility then and I continue to oppose another such facility because of the impact of duplication of services and potential delays to definitive care. As a paramedic, I recall that we routinely responded to STATS to transport patients to a hospital.

In the past year, Condell achieved Level I Trauma Center status, providing access to those most critically injured, close to home. As part of Level I Trauma Center care, Condell provides access to a trauma surgeon and surgical team, on-site 24-hours. In addition Condell has obtained certification as a Chest Pain Center, and the Pediatric Emergency Department was opened in order to best provide timely definitive emergency care to the citizens of Lake County.

Another component of Condell's commitment to all patients requiring critical care is the provision of 24-hour Intensivists on-site, consistent with the guidelines of the Society of Critical Care Medicine. Condell is the only facility in Lake County to provide these specialized physicians on-site 24-hours per day to ensure continuity of medical care and

support for patients and families. It is through comprehensive care and with expert resources available immediately that lives are saved and disability is prevented.

Condell is committed to providing patient care according to established best practice standards. As health care continues to increase in complexity, it is imperative the critical care services of any hospital be founded on researched best evidence based practices in order to:

- 1) Provide direct physician assessment and treatment by board certified Emergency Department and Critical Care physicians 24 hours a day,
- 2) Provide time sensitive critical care as is required for the heart attack or stroke victim, wasted time can mean loss of heart muscle or brain function resulting in permanent harm or even death,
- 3) Provide comprehensive assessment and treatment of the trauma patient, and
- 4) Provide comprehensive complex critical care procedures.

To open emergency treatment centers and create potential delays in definitive care does not improve care nor does it decrease the cost of care. Complex medical services require extensive financial support; however, they save lives, and they give patients direct access the best care. Advanced care can be provided close to home and delivered with nationally recognized best practices.

Our common goal is to provide the highest quality care to our patients and I urge the Health Facilities Planning Board to carefully consider the long term effect on patients whose care is delayed because of transportation to a facility unable to meet the needs of the patient when time and resources are imperative not just the impact to existing facilities. I believe that if the location of services were the most important criteria, then I am sure fire and police departments would have stations on every corner. But if quality and depth of service is to serve as our guide in decision making for healthcare, then we must be good stewards of the resources we have available to care for our sick and injured.

Thank you.



**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of Terryll Joy, M.D.
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010**

Hi. I am Dr. Terryll Joy, a family practitioner with offices in Lake Villa and Round Lake. I'd like to talk to you today about why I believe it's a great idea for Vista to build an emergency care center in Lindenhurst.

I believe, like the vast majority of health care professionals, that convenient access to health care – especially emergency care – is vital. Patients who visit my offices from the north central and northwestern parts of Lake County have to battle traffic at all hours during the day. I cannot imagine how terrifying and frustrating it must be for those same people to travel even longer distances to get emergency care – whether they're in their own car or an ambulance.

One interest of mine is sports. Over the years, I've worked at many sporting events and treated professional, collegiate and high school athletes for a variety of injuries. Every day, there are many sporting events taking place in western and northern Lake County, and some of those participants will sustain a broken bone or twisted ankle and require emergency care. This emergency center would make it easier for residents to get the kind of care they need much quicker, whether they're transported by a family member or an EMS vehicle.



Family Practice:
Dr. Marina Gladson
Dr. Young Lee
Dr. Terryll Joy
Dr. Amy Swift-Johnson
Dr. Dennis, Than
Dr. Robert, Than
Dr. Daisy Andaleon
Dr. Pedro Palu-ay
Dr. Richard Margolin
Dr. Kimberly Morstadt
Neurosurgery:
Dr. James Adamson



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Dr. Art Pogre 2615 Washington Street, Waukegan, IL 60085

Health care professionals in Lake County should support Vista's proposal to build an emergency center in Lindenhurst because it's for the greater good of all Lake County residents, especially those in underserved parts of the county. On behalf of my patients, I ask the board to approve this project.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terryll Joy, M.D." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and a distinct 'J'.

Terryll Joy, MD

ROBIN ZACHER
MANAGER, PLANNING
ADVOCATE CONDELL MEDICAL CENTER
OPPOSITION TO PROJECT # 10-018
CHS/VISTA LINDENHURST FREESTANDING EMERGENCY CENTER
MAY 4, 2010

I am Robin Zacher, Planning Manager for Advocate Condell Medical Center. I appreciate the opportunity to address you today regarding the proposed establishment of a freestanding emergency center at the Vista Lindenhurst site.

Condell recently completed an expansion of the emergency department, creating capacity for a minimum of 64,000 patients annually. Further, facility design was mindful of advanced clinical need and prepared for Level I Trauma Center capabilities, and other individualized care areas to support pediatrics and fast track services. Condell provided emergency services to 55,209 patients during 2009. Already impacted by the recent reopening of Vista West emergency department and the opening of freestanding Lake Forest Grayslake emergency center in the fall of 2009, will be extremely difficult for Condell to achieve 64,000 emergency department visits within two (2) years after the completion of our new emergency room. If another emergency facility is approved for this same market, it will be impossible.

There is sufficient regional capacity; therefore, we do not believe there is need for additional emergency services. Condell itself has capacity for at least 9,000 additional visits based upon Condell's 2009 emergency department utilization as compared with minimum State utilization standards.

Further, we do not believe there is need based upon 30-minute travel time criteria. We studied the travel time for emergency department services utilizing the EMS "run sheets" for ambulance transports to Condell, specifically for Antioch, Fox Lake, Lake Villa and Round Lake. The transport data points identifying the time that an ambulance departed a scene to the time of arrival at Condell were recorded. In review of the data, we confirmed that the significant majority of patients transported by EMS from Antioch, Fox Lake, Lake Villa / Lindenhurst and Round Lake areas to Condell, arrived within a 30-minute transport time.

Because we have full emergency services are on-site awaiting the patient, we feel this provides the most expedited, advanced clinical care.

We are greatly concerned if the proposed project is approved because the impact to Condell will be significant. Forty-three percent of Condell's 2009 emergency department visits were from the eight zip's in the proposed project's Target Population Area. Vista estimated market share capture rates of 70% for Lake Villa / Lindenhurst, 40% for Antioch, 30% for Round Lake and Wadsworth, and 10-20% targets for the remaining communities. To achieve these volumes as proposed in the application, as required by State minimum utilization standards of 2,000 visits per proposed room, Vista Lindenhurst would need to impact each facility's present volume similarly. For Condell, this impact is estimated at about 7,000 patient visits. The emergency department volume at Condell would be reduced well below 50,000 visits annually, risking many of the advanced care services Condell presently supports.

In addition, Vista's market share capture rate for Lake Villa/Lindenhurst is unreasonable. Condell, a Level I Trauma Center, achieves a 68% market share capture of emergency department visits within its local municipality of Libertyville; however, Condell, being a full service emergency department, is able to accept patients of all acuity levels. The Vista freestanding emergency department will be limited in its abilities to accept acute patients; patients requiring advanced or basic life support, intravenous (IV) fluids or monitoring support will bypass the freestanding facility and be transported to a hospital-based facility. Therefore, the market share capture rate for the proposed project is rather aggressive, if not unrealistic.

In closing, we respectfully urge the Planning Board to review the issues raised today and strongly consider the impact this proposal would have on Advocate Condell Medical Center and its ability to provide the advanced, individualized care for the residents of Lake County. With Condell's recent facility expansion coupled with the impact from Vista West and the new Lake Forest Grayslake facility, Condell has capacity. Condell did not oppose either of these recent expansions of services, both clinical care enhancements to existing facilities. However, impacting Condell yet again will risk advanced care including Level I Trauma and Pediatrics Emergency department services.

Thank you.

PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of Aaron Bernau, Deputy Chief, Lake Villa Rescue Squad
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010

Good morning. I am Aaron Bernau, Deputy Chief of Emergency Medical Services for Lake Villa Rescue. I am here in support of Vista Health System's Freestanding Emergency Care Center in Lindenhurst with...no further delay.

This is not the first time that I have publicly endorsed Vista's pursuit. Myself and my boss, Chief Halck, have offered testimony many times for a few very simple reasons.

In February, my grandma passed away, one day shy of her 95th birthday. My grandma lived in Lindenhurst the majority of her life. She started her adult married life in a large house on Chicago's north side, she and my grandpa also had a vacation home they built in the 1930's in Fox Lake. They would come up here to the country every weekend, where my grandpa played for years with his band in the restaurants and taverns then. In the 1940's, they built their dream house, ultimately to replace the one in Fox Lake, over in Lindenhurst on White Oak Drive. It sat completed and empty for seven years until they finally left Chicago and made Lindenhurst their ultimate and final home in the early 1950's. It was their desire to escape the hectic city life and move to the country. My mom and dad have lived in Lindenhurst on Beck Road for 36 years, that's where I was raised. My wife and I live with our two daughters in Lake Villa.

It has been several years, but the reason I reference my grandma is because she was an extremely popular newspaper reporter with columns in the News Sun and the Lakeland Press. There are a lot of times she would write about me and my sister, our haircuts or slumber parties. But another concern that dominated her conversations was her recognition then, that healthcare was essentially vacant in this part of the county, where she ultimately was to make her home. She had a particular vision, from what I understand of a hospital situated on or near the Caboose Park property, I believe. She knew leaving Chicago that certain city-amenities would be lost, but here it is sixty years after her move and we still seek emergency healthcare access that appropriately serves our community.

In the past couple months I have been sorting through hundreds of pictures that my grandma hoarded into tight piles of her early life in Lindenhurst, a far different Lindenhurst. While we still possess that country/ homie feel in Lake Villa and Lindenhurst, suffice it to say, population has exploded and providing adequate and appropriate hospital access has been neglected.

Vocationally, I serve the local community through my service with the rescue squad, I've worked for the organization for 12 years and have been Deputy Chief for 10 years. I can testify before you that our pleas for appropriate healthcare facilities closer to home, have gone unanswered. It is not a matter of convenience that we make these requests, but

rather one of safety. At most times, from just about anywhere in our District, we are nearly a half hour away from an appropriate transport destination.

Our present destination hospitals include NIMC in McHenry, Condell in Libertyville, and the two Vista Hospitals in Waukegan. None are close, and all have two-lane roadways between us and them. That means, if you are unfamiliar with our roads, traffic grid-lock between 6am and 9am, and 11am and 1pm, and 3:30pm to 6:30pm. If you are going to choose to get ill or injured, I would encourage you not do to it then.

I have heard inaccurate statistics quoted by some who've used Mapquest or other similar software to describe the time for our transports, which, obviously, considering all actual variables: congestion, weather, etc., is simply just inaccurate.

While in Springfield a couple years ago, we were presented with what we were told was a list of reasonable transport destinations, and there were 15 of them on the list. To our surprise, and one of our commanders nearly jumped out of his skin, we were told that even Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge popped up in their query as a "reasonable hospital destination". Now, Lutheran General Hospital is an excellent facility, but in no way is transporting there a quick, reasonable solution for our ambulances in Lake Villa.

Lake Villa Rescue is not associated with any hospital system over another. We have excellent working relationships with all of the area hospitals. In this case, however, we have taken notice to what has been going on at Vista. Primarily, we recognize Vista's long term commitment to healthcare in Lindenhurst, specifically at the site next to the library across from our fire station #2. Over the past few years, I have entertained various/ changing plans by others: "yes" one day, "no" the next; "this" location this day, "somewhere else" the next. But, Vista has remained steadfast, focused, and consistent in its pursuit to place emergency care on that same property, here in Lindenhurst.

Mapquest and the phone book yellow pages are not the appropriate consult to figure this out. You might ask me, or the personnel with our department who travel with me, just how long it takes to navigate our trucks with our patients to the far ER's across the county. Some have made reference to our ability to use emergency lights. Do you know what happens when we turn on our emergency lights in congested areas? Cars try to help, but they turn inward, pulling in front of other cars, blocking turn curbs, and we dodge around them the best we can, but it isn't always an immediate solution to our long distance problem.

There are a couple things I think about when these issues come to discussion. Each year, our medics treat nearly 2,000 patients. Given half-hour transports, that means our ambulances are moving en route to hospitals, likely Code 3, that's what we call it when our emergency lights are on, **nearly 1,000 hours each year, almost 3 hours of emergency travel each day.** Safe? We employ very organized emergency drivers training and employ experienced and gifted personnel, but, you tell me. When an ambulance commits to a patient or a call, it is most likely that that crew and ambulance will be out of our area for at least two hours. How much more appropriate is it to have a

closer resource, so that rather than traveling these ridiculous distances, our trucks and personnel can be immediately back in our community ready to service other people in need.

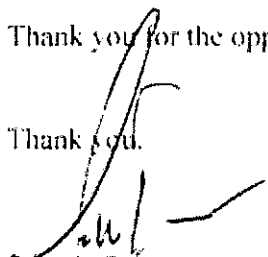
I've had my own health issues over the past year. Last June, I had a DVT that was mistreated by a physician that developed into a full pulmonary embolism. I was lucky, I was already in the hospital before the symptoms presented themselves in severe form. It was awful and has sparked some other bone marrow issues. In the past year, I have been hospitalized 51 days, including Mayo Clinic and other research centers. Thrombosis, in my case a pulmonary embolism, is something that most often does not extend an opportunity to await a 30 minute transport for treatment. I go to bed *every single night* thinking about how far I am away from an appropriate treatment facility, and how if another acute situation were to happen, it would be nearly close to an hour, with transport, before a doctor would have his or her hands on me.

This concept, this stand alone Emergency Room, solves multiple problems—for us as a rescue squad, and for those in our community. It brings an emergency resource close for the most urgent calls, such as cardiopulmonary arrest or an obstructed airway or other similar complication our medics may run into. On the flip side, it also serves as an appropriate destination for our families and our patients who have a simple but urgent need for a broken arm or other simple but emergent medical need like a severe flu, or other similar complaints, that dominate our call logs by nature, that are not necessarily life threatening, but certainly warrant treatment by an Emergency Room doctor.

It is common sense. It is an idea that undeniably has been asked for and affirmed by our community. It is being requested by an organization, Vista Health, that the planning board itself has said has accomplished very much, impressively, in the past few years. I ask the planning board to grant full and final approval for Vista Health Systems to begin this much needed project with, please, no further delay. No further delay. No further delay.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak this morning. May God Bless You all.

Thank you.



Deputy Chief Aaron W. Bernau



Village of Lindenhurst

2301 E. Sand Lake Road
Lindenhurst, Illinois 60046-8934

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of DOMINIC MARTURANO
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010**

My name is Dominic Marturano. I have lived in Lindenhurst for the past 23 years and have been a Trustee for the Village since 2007. I am also Liaison to the Planning Commission, Liaison to the Fire Protection District, and Chairman of the Human Resources Committee.

Working with the Planning Commission, I see firsthand the need for Vista's emergency center. Our area has experienced rapid growth over the last decade. Because of this, high-quality emergency care is necessary. This center will provide residents life-saving services closer to home.

Additionally, Vista Health System is committed to our community and has been for more than 100 years. Vista continually provides health care to all patients, especially those who are disadvantaged and unable to pay. This is critical to the approximately 13 percent of Lindenhurst's population whose income is \$49,000 or less and the 13 percent who are unemployed.

In 2009 Vista paid over \$2.8 million in sales, property and use taxes and provided more Medicaid services than all the other hospitals in the county combined. More revenue coming into our Village means more support for our schools, parks, and fire and police departments.

I fully support Vista's efforts to enhance our community by providing access to quality health care for all residents. I ask that you approve their plans to build the Vista Lindenhurst Emergency Center.

Dominic Marturano

ILLINOIS STATE SENATE

CAPITOL OFFICE:
M121 STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62706
217/782-7353

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1156 EAST WASHINGTON
GRAYSLAKE, IL 60030
847/752-7004



MICHAEL BOND
STATE SENATOR • 31ST DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:
CHAIRPERSON
• TELECOMMUNICATIONS
& TECHNOLOGY
VICE CHAIRPERSON
• TRANSPORTATION
MEMBER:
• APPROPRIATIONS II
• ELECTIONS
• REDISTRICTING

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
OF
STATE SENATOR MICHAEL BOND
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010**

Good morning. I am Senator Michael Bond. I represent Illinois State Senate District 31.

The north central and northwestern portions of Lake County – which make up the majority of my district – have added a lot of residents in the last several years. As the population increases, so do health care needs. However, access to life-saving emergency care has not kept up with growth.

For example, did you know that many north central and northwestern Lake County residents have to drive more than 30 minutes on congested highways to get to the closest emergency center?

It is precisely this situation that led to my decision to sponsor Senate Bill 321, which created the Freestanding Emergency Center licensure category. The intent was to offer better access to emergency medical services to residents near relatively small towns, such as Lindenhurst, Antioch and Lake Villa.

The Vista Lindenhurst Emergency Center is a perfect example of what legislators had hoped health care systems would create following the guidelines in this law. The

proposed emergency center would meet all requirements for service delivery, location, integration with the EMS system and hospital control.

Lake Forest Hospital recently opened an emergency center in my hometown, but that does not diminish the need for emergency care in Lindenhurst. There are many residents in northwest and north central Lake County who would benefit from the well-positioned Vista Lindenhurst Emergency Center.

Patients from the Antioch and Lindenhurst areas deserve faster care, instead of driving past Vista's proposed site to get to another emergency room. Vista did not oppose the certificate of need for the Grayslake Freestanding Emergency Center. And, in its application letter for the Lindenhurst FEC, Vista factored in the service area for Grayslake and STILL found a compelling need for an emergency center in Lindenhurst.

I'd like to also add that Vista is the only hospital system in Lake County that enriches the economy through taxes. Vista contributes significantly to the tax base and provides more Medicaid services than all the other hospitals in the county combined. In 2009, Vista delivered more than \$3.3 million in charity care.

I believe our residents are entitled to the very best health care in close proximity to where they live, which is why I wholeheartedly support Vista Health System's plans to build the Vista Lindenhurst Emergency Center. I'm asking the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to share my desire for providing improved access to quality health care for all of Lake County.

Michael Bond

Michael Bond

The Children's Health Center, S. C.

15 Tower Court
Suite 100
Gurnee, IL 60031
(847) 244-1375

95 W Grand Avenue
Suite 120
Lake Villa, IL
(847) 356-6505

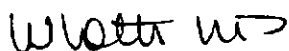
**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of DR. WENDY LOTTS
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010**

I am a pediatrician with offices in Lake Villa and Gurnee for nearly 17 years now. My patients and their parents reside in the communities surrounding the Vista Surgery and Treatment Center where the proposed freestanding emergency center (FEC) will hopefully be built in the very near future. Many of my patients already use this location to access laboratory and x-ray services. I believe that the FEC is needed in this community because my patients' parents often face dangerously long drives to get to the nearest emergency room in Illinois.

When children need immediate medical attention due to illness or injury, they deserve to have access to an emergency care facility that they can access within a reasonable time frame. Emergency services are critical for fast-growing northwestern Lake County.

I wholeheartedly support Vista's plans to build a freestanding emergency center in Lindenhurst and ask the State Planning Board to do the same. Please approve this project to fulfill the need for easily accessible emergency health care in this area of Lake County.

Sincerely,



Wendy J. Lotts, M. D.

wjl

FRANK M. LOFFREDO, Mayor
ALYCE BROWNLEE, Village Clerk
LORI HEITMAN, Treasurer



Trustees:
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JAMES McDONALD
JEFF NIELSEN
STEVE TRKLA

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY OF KAREN HARMS
PROJ.#10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)**

May 04, 2010

Hello. My name is Karen Harms and I am a trustee for the Village of Lake Villa. I'm here today because I'd like to share with you why I believe the Lindenhurst area needs an emergency care center.

I'll start by telling you that my husband is a lung transplant patient. When we decided to move to Lake Villa we were hesitant only because there was no emergency care facility nearby. Our previous home was only 3.5 miles from an emergency center and we are now at least 24 minutes away, without traffic.

When something happens and you or your family member is in a crisis situation it's a terrifying 24 minutes, to say the least. We taped ambulance phone numbers on all of our phones when we moved in because we knew we would have absolutely no extra time. If the Vista Lindenhurst center is built, we would travel only six minutes to get emergency care.

In addition, we have children and grandchildren in the area who currently travel long distances to an ER. If children are hurt or seriously ill they shouldn't have to wait in an ambulance in pain for 25 or 30 minutes or more. It is unacceptable.

I ask that the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board approve this emergency center. It is vital for the safety and well-being for those living in Lake Villa, Lindenhurst, Antioch and other towns in north central and northwestern Lake County.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration,


Karen Harms



**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of MARY ANN MILLER
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 04, 2010**

Recently, it has been brought to our attention that Vista Health System is seeking to open a Free Standing Emergency Care Center in Lindenhurst, Illinois. As colleagues in providing healthcare, we recognize that growth is essential in meeting the needs of those we serve. Furthermore, we support the goals of all our client hospitals as they pursue their visions to bring rapid healthcare to the populations they serve.

With these concepts in mind, we wish Vista the best in its endeavor to provide rapid access to emergency healthcare for those seeking services.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Ann Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Mary Ann Miller, RN, EMT-P, TNS
Vice President
Organization Development
Superior Ambulance Service
Elmhurst, Illinois

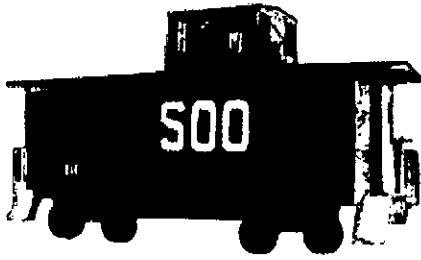
L A K E V I L L A T O W N S H I P

Gateway to the Lakes Region

DANIEL VENTURI - SUPERVISOR
KATHY RENNINGER - CLERK

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Terry Beadle Paul Berker
Glenn McCollum Barbara Stout

37908 N. Fairfield Road, Lake Villa, Illinois 60046
SUPERVISOR'S office phone: 847-356-2116 • Fax: 847-356-2130



PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of Dan Venturi, Lake Villa Township Supervisor
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010

Hello. I am here today to express my support for Vista Health System's proposal to build a Freestanding Emergency Center in Lindenhurst. I am Dan Venturi, and I am Supervisor of Lake Villa Township. I am happy to welcome everyone here today to our Lake Villa Township West Campus building.

In Lake Villa Township we try to do everything we can to help our neighbors in need. And, today there are a lot of people in need in our communities. For example, we've seen a growing number of people coming to our Township Food Pantry. The requests for Township General Assistance and Emergency Assistance grants are up. And, as our population ages, we are seeing more seniors using our senior services.

The same goes for health care. The combination of population growth in Lake County, followed by a difficult recession and high unemployment, means that more people are looking for health care and more people are having trouble affording it. Vista Health System has been a great partner in our community, providing health care to all people, regardless of their economic situation.

Now, Vista wants to build an emergency center in Lindenhurst, which is in Lake Villa Township. This is another example of how Vista is helping to save lives and improve the quality of life and health outcomes of the people of Lake County. The Lindenhurst emergency center will reduce how long it takes for people from Lake Villa Township and areas farther west and north to get to an emergency room.

Transportation is difficult in Lake County because of traffic and congestion. With the Lindenhurst emergency center, it will take less time for people from Lake Villa, Antioch and Round Lake and the surrounding areas to get to an emergency room.

Thank you.

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

Daniel Venturi



ZION CLINIC, S.C.

3115 LEWIS AVE., ZION, IL 60099 (847)-746-3752

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of DENNIS McCREARY, MD
PROJECT # 10-018, VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER
May 4, 2010**

My Name is Dr. Dennis McCreary and I serve as the chair of Vista Health System's Medical Executive Committee. I have partnered with Vista for 25 of my 30 years in family medicine practice.

My experience as a health care provider has taught me many things. One of them is this simple fact; Patients value quality healthcare that is close to home. Vista Health System also understands the value of timely and dependable care. For more than 100 years, this health system and its predecessors have expanded services and locations to meet the needs of Lake County's residents. That is why I am in full support of Vista's proposed emergency center in Lindenhurst.

Residents of Northwestern Lake County need and deserve access to emergency care within their own community. The population of Lindenhurst and its surrounding communities has grown quite a bit in the last 10 years and is projected to increase steadily. As a result, road congestion and longer travel times are now a reality for patients who need emergency care. Vista may not be able to improve travel times, but it can certainly bring care closer to the patients. Adding a freestanding emergency center to the Vista Surgery Center would make that possible.

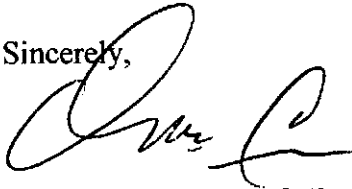
Patients would benefit from the surgical and diagnostic services available next door at the Vista Surgery Center. Access to MRI, X-ray, and ultrasound equipment would only enhance the care that medical professionals provide. The 27-acre campus also has the area's only FAA and IDOT approved heliport. Patients in need of inpatient care would be quickly transported to an acute care hospital.

Vista is the most established health system in this community. Throughout its history, it has been challenged by the ever-changing landscape of healthcare. Strong leadership and visionary planning has allowed it to provide stability for the patients and physicians who rely on its comprehensive delivery system.

ZION CLINIC, S.C.

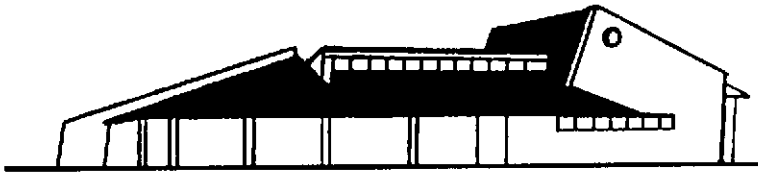
I am certain that Vista Health System is committed to improving and saving lives. Its desire to provide emergency care for those I care for every day is proof of that. I strongly urge the planning board to consider the needs of Northwestern Lake County's residents, and allow Vista to provide them life-saving care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis E. McCreary". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "M".

Dennis E. McCreary, MD

DEM/msh



Lindenhurst Police

An agency of peace and justice
developing for tomorrow

2300 E. Grand Ave. Lindenhurst, Illinois 60046-7524 (847) 356-5400 Fax: (847) 356-6393

PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY

OF JACK MCKEEVER

PROJECT #10-1018 (VISTA LINDENDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)

MAY 4, 2010

I've been privileged to be the Chief of Police for the Village of Lindenhurst for the past 17 years and have worked as a police officer for more than 37 years. I've also been certified by the state as an Emergency Medical Technician. Throughout my years of public service in both Highland Park and in Lindenhurst, I have watched many serious injuries and deaths occur, sometimes in circumstances that might have been preventable. We are all well aware that every minute counts when treating a patient in an emergency. That's why I enthusiastically support Vista Health System's plan to build a free standing emergency center in Lindenhurst.

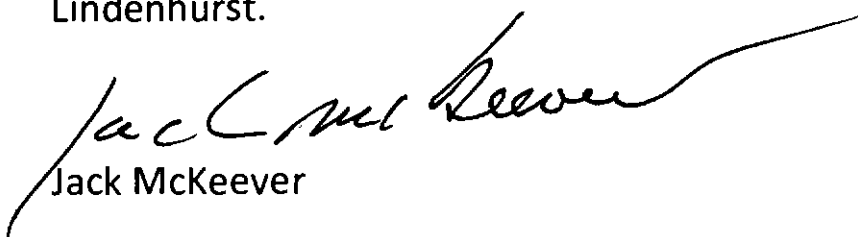
It's not that easy to get around in Lake County, especially during rush hours. One has to allow extra travel time because of inadequate roads that wrap around the area's many lakes. All EMS officials agree that the closer the patients are to emergency care, the more likely they are to have a better outcome, especially elderly patients. And of course most ER admissions do not come from ambulances. Therefore, the new

emergency center is particularly pertinent given that the number of residents between ages 55 to 64 increased from 6.5 percent of the population in 2000 to over 9 percent of the population in 2009; and people ages 65 to 74 went to almost four percent in that same period.

The issue of speedy access to professional care became highly personal to me 13 years ago. I was preparing for work one morning at my home in Lindenhurst and realized I apparently was having a heart attack. More than 30 minutes elapsed before I received emergency room care. I was lucky that I was okay despite having to wait that long. Although an ambulance with a possible M.I. would be directed to a hospital, I don't want Lindenhurst-area residents to rely on luck when they have other serious health emergencies. With this new center, they would be much closer to high quality emergency care.

In addition, Vista's proposed FEC will be next to Vista Surgery Center in Lindenhurst, which is a licensed Ambulatory Treatment Center so patients would have immediate access to numerous diagnostic and treatment services.

Please approve Vista's plan to construct a new emergency center in Lindenhurst.


Jack McKeever

**Neil H. Puller, M.D., M.B.A.
Vista Imaging Associates, S.C.
1324 North Sheridan Road
Waukegan, Illinois, 60085**

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of Neil Puller, M.D., Medical Director of Radiology, Vista Health System
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010**

Good afternoon. I am Dr. Neil Puller, medical director of radiology at Vista Health System and a member of the Vista Health System Board of Directors. I am here today to testify in support for the Freestanding Emergency Center that Vista proposes for Lindenhurst.

I am honored to be affiliated with Vista Health System because Vista's commitment is to care for everyone in the community, especially those who are disadvantaged. And, if you look at Vista's track record, you will see that we consistently work to provide medical care to those who are underserved. Our plans for the Lindenhurst emergency center will help strengthen Vista's dedication to provide critical safety net health care in Lake County.

From a patient's perspective, Vista's plan to connect the proposed emergency center to Vista's Surgery Center in Lindenhurst makes a lot of sense. The emergency center and the Surgery Center will be able to share services that are already located at the Surgery Center, including MRI, ultrasound, CT and a lab. A typical freestanding emergency center does not have these important support services.

Vista's Lindenhurst emergency center also makes sense for patients because it will give patients in the north and west parts of the county quicker access to emergency services. My radiology practice includes Lake Villa, so I am very familiar with the communities in the north and west areas of Lake County. Right now, we have to travel long distances in

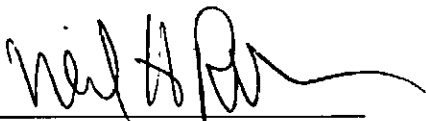
congested traffic to get emergency care. Our communities will be much better served by the new Vista Lindenhurst emergency center.

I know that some health care providers and institutions may be opposed to the Lindenhurst emergency center because they fear patients might leave their care – no matter how far those patients live from their facilities – and come to Vista’s emergency center instead. Let’s take a moment to remind ourselves why we became health care professionals in the first place ... to help people. Vista’s goal is to improve the access to emergency care for everyone, and to reduce rescue response times across Lake County. That should be everybody’s goal.

So, for a hospital or a health care professional who is almost 30 minutes away from this part of the county to argue that it is better positioned to serve this community’s emergency needs is ... disingenuous at best ... particularly when it is clear that what that distant hospital really wants to do is keep its emergency department numbers up.

And, I might add, those who oppose Vista’s emergency center project would be well-served to examine Vista’s strong track record of providing charity care and care to Medicaid patients, and compare it to their own. You’ve heard it a few times already today: Vista East and West provide more Medicaid care than all five other hospitals in Lake County combined.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil H. Puller", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Neil H. Puller, M.D., M.B.A.



County Board Office
Mary Ross Cunningham
District 9, Representative

18 North County Street - 10th Floor
Waukegan, Illinois 60085-4351
Phone 847 377 2300
Fax 847 360 7322
Web <http://www.co.lake.il.us/>

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of MARY ROSS CUNNINGHAM
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010**

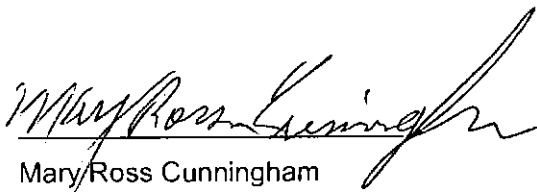
I am Mary Ross Cunningham and I serve as the Lake County Board Commissioner for District 9. I'm here to express my strong support for Vista Health System's plan to bring a new emergency center to Lindenhurst.

Vista has demonstrated a strong commitment to serving all residents of Lake County, particularly those who are disadvantaged. Vista's proposed emergency center will bring much-needed services to residents of northern and western Lake County, some of whom need to drive 30 or more minutes on outdated and congested roads to get emergency care.

Vista did not oppose Lake Forest Hospital's bid for an emergency center in Grayslake because it is a proponent of increased health care services for central and western Lake County. I agree with Vista officials, however, that this one emergency center is not enough to meet the growing needs of Lake County. There is a compelling need to build the Lindenhurst facility and provide better access to emergency care.

An added advantage is that the emergency center would be part of Vista's 27-acre outpatient campus. Medical personnel at the emergency center would have easy access to the outpatient surgery center and diagnostic services that are already provided on that site.

I strongly encourage you to make Lake County a safer place to live by supporting Vista's plans to build an emergency center in Lindenhurst to improve access to health care for all Lake County residents.


Mary Ross Cunningham



BEACH PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT

3233 Lewis Avenue • Beach Park, IL 60087

Chief Paul N. Tierney

Phone: 1-847-662-2642

Fax: 1-847-662-2779

www.beachparkfd.org

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of PAUL TIERNEY
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 04, 2010**

Hello. My name is Paul Tierney and I serve as chief of the Beach Park Fire Department. I'm here to express my support for the proposed Lindenhurst emergency center.

I can imagine what my counterparts in northwestern Lake County are going through. There is no way a fire department can be as effective as it should be without easy access to an emergency center. Our job is to get to an accident as quickly as possible and bring victims to an emergency center where they can be stabilized. If a squad is forced to drive long distances to a hospital and back on Lake County's busy roads, it's a difficult situation for us and for the patient.

These long trips also put a strain on fire and rescue squads because they have to spend a lot of time going back and forth to an emergency care center or hospital that's far from northwestern or north central Lake County. A closer emergency center would help fire and rescue personnel get the patient to a facility quickly, allowing them to be ready for the next emergency.

Then there is what we call "turnaround time" for basic EMS cases. Currently most fire and rescue agencies are cash strapped and a faster turnaround time would mean less impact on payrolls by reducing potential overtime and callback situations.

A new emergency center in Lindenhurst will benefit all fire departments in northern Lake County. So I am asking the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board take action in favor of Vista's plan for a new center.

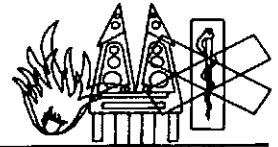
Thank you.



Paul Tierney

Newport Township Fire Protection District

39010 Caroline Avenue
Wadsworth, Illinois 60083



Emergency - 911 or (847) 623-2161 • Fire Station (847) 336-1080 • Fax (847) 336-1097 • mail@newportfire.org

Mark Kirschhoffer - Fire Chief

Peter Campanella

Gerald Nellessen

Joe Stanonik

Trustees

Public Hearing Testimony
Chief Mark Kirschhoffer
Project # 10-018 (Vista Lindenhurst Emergency Center)
May 4, 2010

Good morning, I am Mark Kirschhoffer, Fire Chief of the Newport Township Fire Protection District, which serves Wadsworth, Old Mill Creek, a portion of Beach Park, and a large are of unincorporated Lake County in north east Lake County. Our Fire District provides service to I 94, Route 41 and Route 173 along with several highly traveled Lake County Roadways.

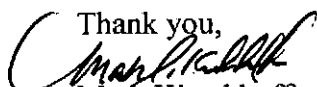
As a firefighter of 30 plus years who has helped provide emergency care to countless emergency scenes in the area, I know first-hand how important it is to have emergency care closer and more convenient to the western portion of our Fire District.

Our township fire department serves a broad area with some areas having limited access such as I-94. It often takes longer than it should to transport patients to emergency care facilities because of long travel distance to existing hospitals and heavy traffic on many of the congested two lane roads in Lake County.

Those who might not appreciate the need for this emergency care center should think about the traffic congestion, time and distance accessing Vista East on the east side of Waukegan or traveling two lane Milwaukee Avenue with critically ill loved ones to Condell Medical Center in Libertyville. Every minute is important whether you have illness or injury.

I hope the Illinois Health and Facilities Planning Board understands the critical need for the Vista Lindenhurst Emergency Center and allows it to be built. This is truly a live saving decision for north, northwest and portions of central Lake County.

Please always remember: Time saves lives.

Thank you,

Mark Kirschhoffer



PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of Susan Holbach, RN
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010

Hello. My name is Susan Holbach, and I'm a Nurse Practitioner and the Nursing Director of the ICU at Vista Medical Center East. I'm also a resident of Lindenhurst, formerly Millburn for the past 24 years.

During the last 31 years of my career, I have heard many stories from patients and their families who had to endure long trips to visit an ER because they live in north central or northwestern Lake County – in towns right near Lindenhurst. It is scary to me to think about anyone making that long of a trip during an emergency, especially when the patient might be my family member or neighbor.

That's why I have great respect for Vista's plans to bring emergency health care services to Lindenhurst. Let me tell you, the new emergency center would make quite a difference to my community. It would bring 24-7 emergency care to our area. And it would be right next to the Vista Surgery Center, which is already equipped with a lab and other diagnostic services such as MRI, CT and ultrasound.

A freestanding emergency care center right down the road would give my neighbors and me tremendous peace of mind. The population growth in our area has been remarkable, and it will continue to be as the area grows. We need and want a local emergency care center now. Please say yes to Vista's plan.

Thank you,

Susan Holbach RN ACNP-BC

Susan Holbach, RN, MSN, ACNP-BC



**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of DR. JOSEPH CRAIG
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010**

Hello. My name is Dr. Joseph Craig, and I am the medical director of Vista Medical Center West's rehabilitation program. Throughout Vista Health System, we provide state-of-the-art, goal-oriented care. For example, in our rehabilitation program, we aim to restore function to stroke victims, amputees, patients injured in accidents and others in need of comprehensive physical rehabilitation. Many of these patients come to us after being admitted into one of our emergency rooms. Our emergency rooms provide the same comprehensive care.

The proposed freestanding emergency center would be added to Vista Health System's existing outpatient surgery and treatment center in Lindenhurst at the corners of Deep Lake Road and Grand Avenue. This 27-acre campus already houses a 4-room licensed full-service ASTC and extensive diagnostics imaging services, including MRI, ultrasound and a blood lab. Patients entering the freestanding emergency center in Lindenhurst will be stabilized and, if necessary, transported either by ambulance or helicopter (via the property's heliport) to Vista Medical Center East's emergency department.

Vista Medical Center East's emergency department is a Level II trauma center with a helipad, an accredited chest pain center and a certified primary stroke center. In addition, the hospital has two cardiac catheterization labs and a new electrophysiology lab with state-of-the-art equipment ready at a moment's notice to treat the most critically ill cardiac patients. Last year, Vista Medical Center East also expanded its ICU to 23 beds. The east campus is a great support system for the freestanding emergency center in Lindenhurst. I support this project because I believe that everyone deserves accessible emergency care.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Craig", is written over a dark, textured background that looks like a stamp or a shadow.

Joseph Craig, M.D.



City of
Waukegan

100 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue
Waukegan, Illinois 60085
www.waukeganweb.com
☎ (847) 599-2500

Robert G. Sabonjian, Mayor
Wayne Motley, City Clerk
Dr. John R. Schwab, Treasurer

PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of Larry TenPas
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010

Hello. My name is Larry TenPas. I'm an alderman in Waukegan, and am grateful for the opportunity to tell you why I support Vista Health System and its plans to build an emergency center in Lindenhurst.

I'm very familiar with Vista and its great service to Waukegan residents. Vista has made a commitment to Waukegan and Lake County by making many positive changes and improvements to Vista East and Vista West. For example, Vista:

- recently completed a 23-bed ICU expansion at Vista East and renovated the existing ICU;
- brought in impressive new equipment such as a Big Bore CT Scanner; and
- made Vista East's emergency room into the county's largest.

I, myself, have been a patient at Vista and was very impressed with the level of care I received there. I'm grateful to have good health care coverage that pays for trips to the hospital. Vista knows what it's like for those who do not have adequate health care insurance, and provides millions in Medicaid service each year – much more than any other Lake County hospital.

What does all of this have to do with the proposed Lindenhurst emergency center? In a word, trust.

You can trust Vista to provide the best care possible for residents in north central and northwestern Lake County, who live much too far from adequate emergency care. And,

MAYOR
Lawrence M. Hanson

CLERK
Candi L. Rowe



Dennis B. Crosby
Jay Jozwiak
Scott A. Pierce
Ted Poulos
George C. Sakas
Michael W. Wolczyk

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of LAWRENCE HANSON
10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 04, 2010**

Hello. I am Lawrence Hanson and I serve as mayor for the Village of Antioch.

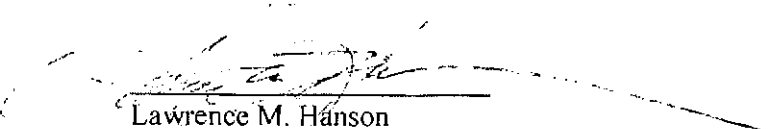
Antioch has been working with Vista Health System for several years to bring emergency care to the residents of northwestern Lake County. This issue is of particular concern to us because Antioch is located farther from a hospital than any other municipality in the entire metropolitan Chicago area.

I've heard that every year, hundreds of residents from Antioch and its neighboring communities are taken to Wisconsin by EMS teams because that's where the closest ER is located. Think about that: Many Lake County residents have no choice but to go to Wisconsin for their emergency health care because their own state cannot provide for them. I find this situation deplorable.

Residents of the area need and deserve easy access to medical care and Vista Health System is ready and willing to offer it. We need this facility and we need it soon; Antioch's population has increased more than 58 percent in the last ten years, and we predict that number will continue to grow.

I look forward to Vista Health System's new emergency center in Lindenhurst, and hope the health facilities planning board can make it a reality.

Thank you.



Lawrence M. Hanson

SMART HEALTHCARE CONSULTING, LLC

I am pleased to be here today to register my support for Vista Health System's plans to build a Freestanding Emergency Center in Lindenhurst. My name is Dr. Deborah Smart. I am a physician and President of Smart Healthcare Consulting. I am pleased to serve on the Vista Health System Board of Directors.

Vista Health System plays a very distinct role in health care in Lake County, and perhaps in Illinois. Vista's hospitals are the only Lake County hospitals that are located in an economically disadvantaged area. By virtue of its location and commitment to the community, Vista Health System's two Waukegan hospitals care for more Medicaid patients than all five other Lake County hospitals -- combined. Vista East's volume of Medicaid care increased by more than 65 percent from 2007 to 2009 .

When it comes to charity care, Vista leads the way. The hospitals provided more than 3.3 million dollars in charity care in 2009, calculated on a cost basis. It is very clear that Vista is reliable and faithful in its dedication to those who are medically underserved. This has been particularly evident during the economic downturn.

Meanwhile, Vista Health System is the only hospital system in Lake County that contributes to the economy by paying taxes. In 2009, Vista paid more than 2.8 million dollars in property taxes, and in sales and use taxes. Those taxes support schools, local government, roads, police and fire departments and other vital community services.



18069 Pond Ridge
Gurnee, IL 60031

PHONE (847) 502-5321
FAX (847) 665-8037
E-MAIL smartdoc247@comcast.net

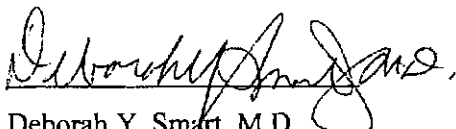
SMART HEALTHCARE CONSULTING, LLC

So, to sum that up, Vista contributes significantly to the tax base ... provides more Medicaid services than all the other hospitals in the county combined ... is experiencing dramatic increases in its number of Medicaid patients ... and delivered more than 3.3 million dollars in charity care in 2009. At the risk of sounding immodest, I'd say that Vista is a very good neighbor and a highly valued corporate citizen.

Where does that put Vista as it plans for the future? Vista continues to serve as the county's safety net hospital, and it is clear that other hospitals in this county are not interested in doing the same. The care of underserved populations is squarely on Vista's shoulders. Vista's ability to continue doing this depends upon Vista having an improved balance of service areas. The other hospitals in Lake County are located in more affluent areas, which means they treat very few charity care and Medicaid patients.

Vista already serves the Lindenhurst community with its Surgery Center. Building a freestanding emergency center adjacent to that Surgery Center makes a lot of sense because the MRI, ultrasound and lab facilities that have been there for 10 years will enhance the emergency center. Most important, this will allow Vista to provide much-needed emergency services to the north and western parts of the county.

Thank you.


Deborah Y. Smart, M.D.



18069 Pond Ridge
Gurnee, IL 60031

PHONE (847) 502-5321
FAX (847) 665-8037
E-MAIL smartdoc247@comcast.net



May 3, 2010

Public Hearing Testimony of
Village President Kristina Kovarik
Project #10-018 (Vista Lindenhurst Emergency Center)

As Mayor of the Village of Gurnee I endorse Vista Healthy system's plan to build an emergency center in Lindenhurst. Lindenhurst is contiguous to our Village border.

The location of the proposed Vista Lindenhurst Emergency Center represents the best and fastest route possible for our emergency service personnel to transport our patients. Under the current emergency room network the poor roads and traffic congestion are turning transports into 40 to 50 minute trips. Knowing that every minute counts in the race to save a life the proposed location in Lindenhurst will truly make a difference each and every time in the transport of a patient.

The Gurnee Fire Department is responsible for not only the residents of Gurnee but also the surrounding Fire Protection District. This area covers 30 square miles and 60,000 residents. In addition, the daytime population swells 7 days a week due to the number of visitors from the region to our shopping and entertainment attractions. The Gurnee Fire Department responds to an unusually high number of calls involving emergency situations and the proposed Lindenhurst location will make a significant difference in transport time so not only residents but visitors will be better served in life-threatening situations.

On behalf of the Village of Gurnee, I urge the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board to approve Vista's application for an emergency care center in Lindenhurst.

Sincerely,

Mayor Kristina Kovarik
Village of Gurnee

/drd

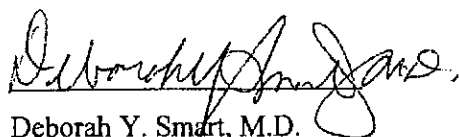
SMART HEALTHCARE CONSULTING, LLC

So, to sum that up, Vista contributes significantly to the tax base ... provides more Medicaid services than all the other hospitals in the county combined ... is experiencing dramatic increases in its number of Medicaid patients ... and delivered more than 3.3 million dollars in charity care in 2009. At the risk of sounding immodest, I'd say that Vista is a very good neighbor and a highly valued corporate citizen.

Where does that put Vista as it plans for the future? Vista continues to serve as the county's safety net hospital, and it is clear that other hospitals in this county are not interested in doing the same. The care of underserved populations is squarely on Vista's shoulders. Vista's ability to continue doing this depends upon Vista having an improved balance of service areas. The other hospitals in Lake County are located in more affluent areas, which means they treat very few charity care and Medicaid patients.

Vista already serves the Lindenhurst community with its Surgery Center. Building a freestanding emergency center adjacent to that Surgery Center makes a lot of sense because the MRI, ultrasound and lab facilities that have been there for 10 years will enhance the emergency center. Most important, this will allow Vista to provide much-needed emergency services to the north and western parts of the county.

Thank you.


Deborah Y. Smart, M.D.



18069 Pond Ridge
Gurnee, IL 60031

PHONE (847) 502-5321
FAX (847) 665-8037
E-MAIL smartdoc247@comcast.net



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Waukegan
100 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue
Waukegan, Illinois 60085
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Robert G. Sabonjian, Mayor
Wayne Motley, City Clerk
Dr. John R. Schwab, Treasurer

PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of Robert Sabonjian, Mayor of the City of Waukegan
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010

Hello. My name is Robert Sabonjian and I am the Mayor of the City of Waukegan. I am here today to testify in support of the plans by Vista Health System to build a Freestanding Emergency Center in Lindenhurst.

I am proud to say that I have been a passionate representative of the Waukegan community's interests for more than a decade. For 10 years, I was privileged to represent Waukegan and all of District 8 on the Lake County Board. I have just completed my first year serving as Mayor of Waukegan. During my tenure of public service, I have witnessed Vista Health System's commitment to care for everyone in our community – especially those who are disadvantaged.

Over the past few years, Vista Health System has invested millions of dollars in health care for the Waukegan community and the entire County. It has brought new life and life-saving equipment and medical professionals to Vista East and Vista West health centers. As the only hospital system in Lake County located in an area with a large population of low-income residents and medically underserved people, Vista has taken responsibility for being the “safety net” hospital for our most vulnerable residents. We are all thankful for that.

I sometimes wonder what would happen to the Waukegan community if Vista were not there to care for all the charity care and Medicaid patients who need medical care. The other hospitals in Lake County are located in more affluent areas of the county and have shown little interest in treating those neediest residents. And, the number of people who can't afford medical care has grown in the last couple of years because of the recession.

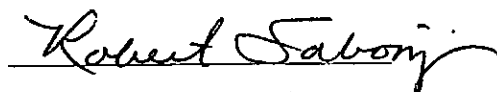
Unemployment is still high in Waukegan. The Illinois Department of Employment Security reported that Waukegan's unemployment rate in March was 18.7 percent.

Here is another statistic. As I understand it, Vista cares for more Medicaid patients than all five other hospitals in Lake County combined. Meanwhile, Vista provided more than 3.3 million dollars worth of charity care in 2009. On top of that, Vista pays property taxes, sales taxes and other taxes, which support public services such as schools, roads, libraries, parks, police and firefighters for our community.

Vista Health System stands by its word. When Vista promised to modernize and expand the Vista East and West facilities, it did so. Now that Vista is pledging to build an emergency center that will bring access to care to more Lake County residents – particularly in medically underserved areas – you can trust them.

I worked hard in my campaign last year to earn the support of people from all walks of life, from all economic, racial and ethnic backgrounds. I listened to them. I learned about their dreams and life challenges. I can tell you that people in our community are overwhelmingly focused on two major themes: jobs ... and access to health care. Vista's emergency center in Lindenhurst will help in both of those areas.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Sabonjian". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Mayor Robert Sabonjian

GERALD T. HAVEY, M.D.
BOARD CERTIFIED INTERNAL MEDICINE
2504 WASHINGTON ST., SUITE 205
WAUKEGAN, IL 60085

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of Gerald Havey, M.D.
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010**

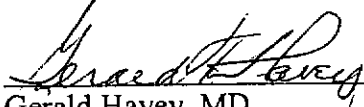
Hello. I am Dr. Gerald Havey, an internal medicine physician on staff at Vista. I want to make sure all Lake County residents have adequate access to health care and I know Vista has that same concern. I have been in practice for 50 years and I see a need for emergency care in the Lindenhurst area.

Did you know that Vista's two Waukegan hospitals care for more Medicaid patients than the five other hospitals in the county combined? In these times of economic distress, especially in high-unemployment cities like Waukegan, that is a wonderful service to the community. It's no wonder Vista is considered the safety net hospital for Lake County.

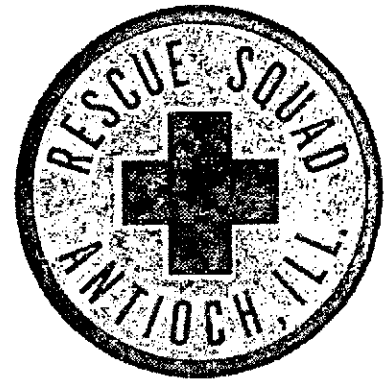
And, I understand that Vista provided 3.3 million dollars in charity care last year, an increase from 2.5 million dollars in 2008. These statistics are important because they show the importance of allowing Vista to open an emergency center in Lindenhurst. The new center would help Vista balance its coverage areas.

Towns in north central and northwestern Lake County might be faring a bit better economically than Waukegan, but their proximity to health care is much worse than anywhere else in the county. Some residents have to travel 30 minutes or more during higher traffic times, which is absurd.

I ask that you support Vista's project and allow for greater access to emergency care for all Lake County residents. Thank you.


Gerald Havey, MD

Antioch Rescue Squad



**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of Wayne Sobczak, Chief, Antioch Rescue Squad
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010**

Hello. My name is Wayne Sobczak and I am Chief of the Antioch Rescue Squad. I am happy to offer my support for the Freestanding Emergency Center that is proposed for Lindenhurst by Vista Health System.

The Antioch Rescue Squad is a nonprofit corporation, dedicated to helping those who are injured or sick in the Antioch community. We also provide first aid education to the public. I am also proud to say that the Antioch Rescue Squad -- founded in 1938 -- was the first of its kind in Illinois, and first in the Midwest.

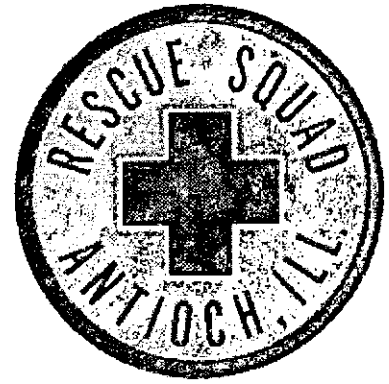
We were first in another very important area, too. In the early 1970s, the Antioch Rescue Squad and Victory Memorial Hospital -- the predecessor of Vista East Hospital -- pioneered the concept of collaborating with a hospital to give Rescue Squad members additional education and training by hospital physicians. By giving our teams a level of training far beyond basic and advanced first aid, we created the state's very first paramedic unit.

The goal always has been, and continues to be, to treat and stabilize injured and sick people as quickly as possible and transport them to a place where they can be seen by emergency physicians as soon as possible.

As a life-long Antioch resident and a member of the rescue squad for more than 37 years, I can tell you that all of us in the northwest part of Lake County -- especially the Antioch

"Serving The Lakes Area 24 Hours A Day - - 365 Days A Year"

Antioch Rescue Squad



and lakes region – have lacked access to emergency room and hospital care during my entire lifetime. Vista's plan to build an emergency center in Lindenhurst will help

improve access to care for everyone. As I understand it, Vista's emergency center will be located at Vista's Lindenhurst campus and will have six treatment rooms and a trauma room.

Residents in Antioch, Lake Villa, the Round Lake communities, and of course, Lindenhurst, are among those who would benefit most from that new emergency center in Lindenhurst. Too often we've had to send our patients to hospitals in Wisconsin because it's the closest place to get emergency care.

The Lindenhurst emergency center location is still at least 24 minutes from the closest hospital and 16 minutes from the nearest emergency room. And for those of us who live in northwestern Lake County, that will be a huge improvement over the way things are today. We all know that when it comes to emergency care, every second counts.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne M. Sobezak". The signature is written over a horizontal line that serves as a separator between the signature and the printed name below.

Wayne M. Sobezak, Chief

Antioch Rescue Squad



Village of Lindenhurst

2301 E. Sand Lake Road
Lindenhurst, Illinois 60046-8934

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of ARTHUR NEUBAUER
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010**

Hello. I'm Arthur Neubauer. I am a strong supporter of the Vista Lindenhurst Emergency Center because I serve as both treasurer of the Village of Lindenhurst and as a Vista Health System board member. I understand both the needs of the residents of Lindenhurst and the planning philosophy of Vista Health.

Vista's plan to construct a new emergency center in Lindenhurst will address a dire need for improved access to emergency care in north and west Lake County. In addition to the many health care benefits, Vista's new emergency center will also help to improve the economy of the Lindenhurst area and Lake County through additional taxes and job creation.

Currently, Vista is the only hospital system in Lake County that pays taxes. In fact, in 2009 Vista paid more than \$2.8 million in property taxes and in sales and use taxes. Also, Vista provides more Medicaid services to the community than all of the other Lake County hospitals combined. Vista's charity care amounted to 3.3 million dollars in 2009.

Vista is pleased to have extensive support for its plans from community leaders, emergency medical professionals, elected officials, physicians, nonprofits and patients throughout the county. I ask that you please approve Vista's plans for a new emergency center, with the realization that this will benefit the community in many ways.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Arthur Neubauer', written over a horizontal line.

**Catherine Olson
529 South Huntington Rise
Round Lake, IL 60073
847-858-1825**

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of Catherine Olson
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010**

Hello. My name is Catherine Olson. I'm a nurse at Vista East and a resident of Round Lake. I'd like to talk to you about my experience with Vista through the recent health crisis of a family member – my Mom. That experience showed me why we need an emergency care center in Lindenhurst.

Recently, my Mom wasn't feeling well and I drove her to the hospital. She didn't have chest pains or any other classic signs of heart problems ... but it ended up that she had a heart attack. Then she needed heart surgery. She was treated very well at Vista East, and so was I. And that's not just because I'm an employee ... I saw everyone else – patients and family members—treated in the same caring way.

My Mom has recovered and is living in Round Lake with my family and me. I often think about that horrible day when I brought my mother to the hospital and realize how much better it would have been if we could have taken a quicker trip to an emergency center in Lindenhurst. They could have diagnosed her right away and I wouldn't have had to take the chance of driving so far to get emergency care.

I know she might need to visit an ER from time to time and it would be so much better to travel down the road instead of 30 minutes or more. I have three boys, ages 6 to 11, which is another reason why a closer ER is on my mind. Like most moms, I worry about them a lot and would want them to get treatment right away if they got sick or became injured at home, in a park or at school.

People who don't think it's a big deal for north central and northwestern Lake County residents to have better access to emergency care should consider this: What if this happened to your mom?

I'm very familiar with Vista and its great service to Waukegan residents. Vista has made a commitment to Waukegan and Lake County by making many positive changes and improvements to Vista East and Vista West. For example, Vista:

- recently completed a 23-bed ICU expansion at Vista East and renovated the existing ICU;
- brought in impressive new equipment such as a Big Bore CT Scanner; and
- made Vista East's emergency room into the county's largest.

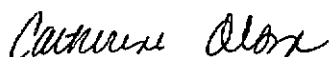
I, myself, have been a patient at Vista and was very impressed with the level of care I received there. I'm grateful to have good health care coverage that pays for trips to the hospital. Vista knows what it's like for those who do not have adequate health care insurance, and provides millions in charity care assistance each year – much more than any other Lake County hospital.

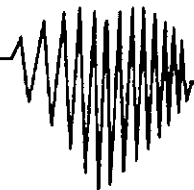
What does all of this have to do with the proposed Lindenhurst emergency center? In a word, trust.

You can trust Vista to provide the best care possible for residents in north central and northwestern Lake County, who live much too far from adequate emergency care. And, you can trust Vista to provide care to all Lake County residents, not just those who have good insurance coverage.

I know Vista's center will be a great addition to Lake County and ask that you approve this project. Thank you.

Catherine Olson





CARDIAC SURGERY ASSOCIATES, S.C.

Rudolph A. Altergott, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Mamdouh Bakhos, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Andrew R. Barksdale, M.D.
Bradford P. Blakeman, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Juan J. Bonilla, M.D., F.A.C.S.
David M. Cheng, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Elizabeth C. Cloaiuta, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Ronald M. Cossman, M.D.
David J. Cziperle, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Michael J. DaValle, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Zev Davis, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Bryan K. Foy, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Nicola A. Francalancia, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Marc W. Gerdisch, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.A.C.C.

John F. Golan, M.D., F.A.C.S.
James A. Gramm, M.D., F.A.C.S.
John G. Grieco, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Thomas J. Hinkamp, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Bryan K. Lee, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Frank J. Lutrin, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Peter H. Marks, M.D., F.A.C.S.
David R. Onsager, M.D.
Manesh Parikshak, M.D.
Vitaly V. Piliuko, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.A.C.C.P.
Jeffrey P. Schwartz, M.D., F.A.C.S.
J. Michael Tucheck, D.O., F.A.C.S.
James J. Walsh, M.D., F.A.C.S.

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of DAVID ONSAGER, M.D.
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010**

Hello. I'm Dr. David Onsager, a cardiovascular surgeon at Cardiac Surgery Associates in Gurnee. I support Vista Health System in its quest to bring an emergency center to Lindenhurst.

As a doctor who is concerned about access to health care for all Lake County residents, I know there is a compelling need for this center. I ask you to think about what it's like for a person who is in an ambulance or car en route to an emergency room in northwest Lake County. Instead of taking a much shorter trip to an emergency center in Lindenhurst, the person must pass by the proposed location for Vista Lindenhurst Emergency Center en route to another emergency room. A quicker trip to get emergency care could make all the difference.

The Vista Lindenhurst emergency center would provide 24-7 care for north central and northwestern Lake County, providing the kind of health care access that can save lives.

Vista's proposed center would be built on the campus of the Vista Surgery Center in Lindenhurst, which is an Illinois Department of Public Health-licensed Ambulatory Surgery Treatment Center. The 43,000-square-foot surgery center just off Grand Avenue already houses an open MRI machine, a Big Bore CT Scanner and a diagnostics lab. Plus, Vista's 27-acre Lindenhurst campus already has a heliport that is used to enhance emergency medical treatment.

I strongly support Vista's plans to build an emergency center in Lindenhurst and I ask the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to do the same. __

David Onsager, M.D.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Onsager". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "O" at the end.

FRANK M. LOFFREDO, Mayor
ALYCE BROWNLEE, Village Clerk
LORI HEITMAN, Treasurer



Trustees:
KATHLEEN BATTISTONE
DAVID A. DYKSTRA
KAREN HARMS
JAMES McDONALD
JEFF NIELSEN
STEVE TRKLA

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of FRANK LOFFREDO
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010**

I am Frank Loffredo, Mayor of Lake Villa. I have always supported Vista Health System's attempts to improve health care access in this part of Lake County and believe the proposed Lindenhurst emergency center is desperately needed.

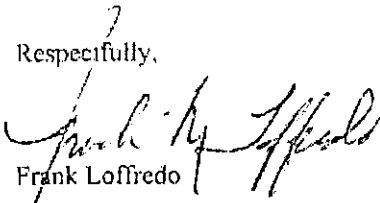
Lake Villa is a small town, but we've seen considerable growth over the years. For example, our population increased by 46 percent from 2000 to 2008. Like many towns in west and north Lake County, we've added more people, but our residents still don't have access to basic amenities, such as a nearby emergency department.

Vista's proposed emergency center will significantly improve access to necessary health care services and reduce travel times during emergencies.

I understand that some other health care providers may not support this effort because they think Vista might attract patients from their emergency centers or hospitals. But the goal for all of us should be to increase access to emergency medical care for everyone across the county.

I strongly support Vista's plans to construct a new emergency center in Lindenhurst. The sooner the better.

Respectfully,


Frank Loffredo
Mayor



20 Tower Court, Suite D
Gurnee, Illinois 60031
Phone: 847.336.6550
Fax: 847.336.6595

2031 E. Grand Avenue
Lindenhurst, Illinois 60046
Phone: 847.265.1277
Fax: 847.265.1255

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of RASHMIKANT PATEL, MD
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010**

My name is Dr. Rashmikant Patel and I whole-heartedly support Vista's Certificate of Need application to construct a freestanding emergency center in Lindenhurst. I am an internal medicine physician who has been practicing in Lindenhurst for 19 years. I also serve as a board member on Vista's Board of Trustees.

I support the FEC project because I know what it means for patients in Lindenhurst and its neighboring communities – saved lives and improved chances of recovery. Vista's proposed emergency center will be an addition to its state-licensed Ambulatory Surgery Treatment Center. The surgery center is currently used for various diagnostic and treatment services. Emergency care staff at the FEC will have access to equipment in the surgery center in order to observe open fractures and perform other medical procedures.

Vista's FEC will be located off a major road, Grand Avenue. This places it 24 minutes from the closest hospital and 16 minutes from the nearest emergency room. The location will reduce EMS transport times in north central and northwest Lake County. If anyone disputes the value of shorter transport times, just imagine being in an ambulance with your loved one. The minutes feel like hours before you arrive to the nearest ER.

Vista has been committed to this community for more than 100 years. In recent years it has made significant strides to offer health care services in convenient locations. All eight of Vista's facilities are located in various parts of Lake County. Wherever Vista sees a need, it makes every effort to meet it. The organization's desire to provide emergency care in Lindenhurst is consistent with that fact.

I have observed the high-quality emergency care that Vista gives to patients. I believe that the residents of Northwestern Lake County should be allowed to access quality emergency care closer to their homes. I support Vista's plan to give them such access and I urge the board to do the same.

Rashmikant Patel, M.D.

Michael F. Scheer, M.D., F.A.C.S.

General Surgery and Critical Care

Scheer Surgical Associates

#20 Tower Court - Suite A

Gurnee, Illinois 60031

Telephone (847) 244-3525

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of Michael F. Scheer, MD FACS
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010**

I am writing to express my support for the freestanding emergency room proposed in Lindenhurst, Illinois.

As a General Surgeon practicing in Lake County for the past fifteen years, I have seen the growth in Lake County especially in the northwest portion of the county. I see many patients on a daily basis from the Antioch, Spring Grove, Richmond, Fox Lake area and even patients from the Wisconsin cities of Bristol, Trevor, Twin Lakes and others. These patients may travel 45 minutes to an hour just to get to my office which is ten to fifteen minutes more to the nearest hospital emergency room. Having access to a freestanding ER in Lindenhurst would cut the maximum travel times in half or less and would provide emergency availability in only minutes to those patients residing in Lindenhurst and Lake Villa and the surrounding townships.

I am quite familiar with the location of the proposed Emergency Room as I perform outpatient surgery at the Vista Surgery and Treatment Center several times each month, usually for patients who live in the previously mentioned towns. The location is convenient for those patients, but in the case of an emergency, an ambulance would have to pass in front or very close by to get to the nearest hospital emergency room which is another 25 minutes east or south and that is if there is no significant traffic. There is another freestanding emergency room in Grayslake which is another 15 minutes away so in the interest of time, knowing that minutes may mean the difference between life and death for a cardiac patient or severe debilitation and recovery for a stroke patient it only makes sense to have a freestanding emergency room closer to where it is actually needed.

It is quite clear to me that the residents of northern Lake County and southern Wisconsin are in need of available emergency care and the infrastructure along with a helicopter pad are already there at the Lindenhurst site.

Vista Health System currently provides emergency and Level II trauma services to Waukegan and its surrounding communities. However, Vista has also noted that there is a deficiency of emergency health care in the greater Lindenhurst area. To help fill that

Michael F. Scheer, M.D., F.A.C.S.

General Surgery and Critical Care

Scheer Surgical Associates

#20 Tower Court - Suite A

Gurnee, Illinois 60031

Telephone (847) 244-3525

void, Vista would like to open a freestanding ER in Lindenhurst.

Vista has proven time and time again that it is committed to the residents of Waukegan and the surrounding communities and I am positive that this same commitment will be extended to Lindenhurst/Lake Villa and the surrounding communities. Vista recently was named a chest pain center of excellence and is the only Lake County Hospital so designated. It is this care that will be delivered to the families in Lindenhurst/Lake Villa and the surrounding communities.

In closing, I completely support the Vista Medical Center Lindenhurst as being best for my patients, for the local communities, and for Lake County as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Scheer".

Michael F. Scheer, M.D., F.A.C.S.

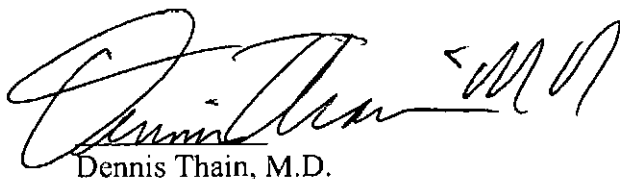
**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of DR. DENNIS THAIN
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010**

My name is Dennis Thain. I am a family practitioner in Antioch, Illinois, and an employee of the Waukegan Clinic Corporation, a subsidiary of Vista Health System. I want to go on record as saying that I fully support Vista Health System's quest to build a freestanding emergency center at its Lindenhurst campus. It is a medical service and facility that is needed in a greatly underserved market. Currently many of my patients have to travel long distances to receive emergency care, which is unacceptable.

I appreciate Vista Health System's courage for undertaking the task of providing equitable healthcare services in Lake County. The sooner patients begin receiving emergency medical care, regardless of the reason they are being treated, the better their chance for recovery. The residents of the northern part of Lake County deserve to have an emergency room within close proximity to where they live. These people deserve to receive the same high-level health care as those living in central and southern Lake County.

The inequity in accessibility is appalling to me when my mission as a doctor is to save lives.

I implore the members of the State Planning Board to approve Vista's plans for the new freestanding emergency center in Lindenhurst. I can promise you that every resident nearer to the Lindenhurst facility than any other hospital will be grateful for your 'Yes' vote, especially those whose lives will be improved because of it.



Dennis Thain, M.D.



**Waukegan Clinic Corporation
A Vista Health System Corporation**

Family Practice:

Dr. Marina Gladson 1050 Red Oak Lane, Lindenhurst, IL 60046
Dr. Young Lee 701 14th Street, North Chicago, IL 60064
Dr. Alexander Potermin 100 N. Atkinson Suite 109, Grayslake, IL 60030
Dr. Dennis Thain 707 Main Street, Antioch, IL 60002
Dr. Robert Thain 707 Main Street, Antioch, IL 60002

Neurosurgery:

Dr. James Adamson 200 S. Greenleaf, Gurnee, IL 60031

Hospitalist:

Dr. Huma Chaudhery 1324 North Sheridan Road, Waukegan, IL 60085
Dr. Mathai Karingada 1324 North Sheridan Road, Waukegan, IL 60085
Dr. Nelly Kvirikadze 1324 North Sheridan Road, Waukegan, IL 60085
Dr. Mushtaq Mohammed 1324 North Sheridan Road, Waukegan, IL 60085

Psychiatry:

Dr. Uzoma Okoli 2615 Washington Street, Waukegan, IL 60085
Dr. Art Pogre 2615 Washington Street, Waukegan, IL 60085



City of
Waukegan

Fire Department
1101 Belvidere Street
Waukegan, Illinois 60085
☎(847) 249-5410
☎(847) 249-5607
www.waukeganfire.com

Daniel L. Young
Fire Chief

Robert G. Sabonjian, Mayor
Wayne Motley, City Clerk
Dr. John R. Schwab, Treasurer

PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of DANIEL YOUNG
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010

Hi, I'm Daniel Young and I'm chief of the Waukegan Fire Department. The Waukegan Fire Department has had the privilege of partnering with Vista Health System as it provides health care to meet the needs of all Waukegan-area residents.

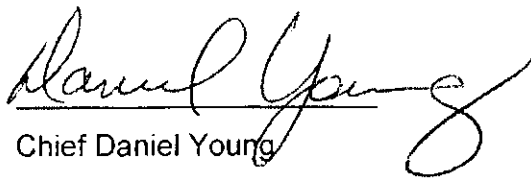
One of the reasons I strongly support Vista's plans to construct a new emergency center in Lindenhurst is because I know Vista will continue its commitment to care for everyone in Lake County, regardless of income.

Another important reason I support Vista's efforts is because many lives will be saved if Vista receives authorization to build its new emergency center in Lindenhurst.

The best way to measure a need for improved access to emergency care is to review transport times to existing emergency centers. If response times are high – as they are for much of north central and northwestern Lake County, where many residents have to travel 30 minutes or more for emergency care on busy roads – it directly contributes to poor outcomes for seriously ill and injured patients. The large amount of new housing and industry in northwest Lake County translates into an even greater need for emergency services in that area of the county.

I'm happy to stand here today in full support of Vista's plans to build a new emergency center in Lindenhurst. I know from working with neighboring fire departments that, collectively, we need to look out for the health care needs of all of Lake County.

Given our continued population growth, increasing emergency call volume and congested roadways, we view the addition of a new emergency center in Lake County as essential for public safety.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel Young". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Chief Daniel Young

PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of, FAHD JAJEH, MD
PROJECT # 10-018, VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER
MAY 4, 2010

I am Dr. Fahd Jajeh, an interventional cardiologist on staff at Vista Health System. I support Vista's desire to provide emergency care in the city of Lindenhurst.

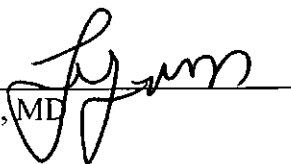
Almost every day, I see patients in the EP/Cath lab who have heart related conditions. Many of them initially come through the ER. It is a great feeling to know that the patients who come to Vista for ER care have access to both diagnostic and treatment technology.

Vista will provide the same exceptional emergency care at its proposed FEC. The center will operate under the direction of Vista Medical Center East's comprehensive ER department. The onsite medical team will communicate closely with personnel at the East location. Patients who need sudden critical care will have transportation options. Local EMS will be on hand and the on-site helipad will be available for airlifts to the closest acute care hospital. Patient needing care in specialized areas like mine will be seen immediately upon arrival to Vista East.

Vista takes great pride in the care it provides to all communities. It also takes pride in being a part of these communities. Vista's additional property taxes for the FEC will help to enrich local schools and parks. The new facility is projected to add 50 jobs to north central Lake County, while providing emergency care closer to those who need it. I ask the planning board to do what is in the best interest of this community and approve Vista's application for a Lindenhurst FEC.

Thank you,

Fahd Jajeh, MD

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Jajeh', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

**LAKE COUNTY SURGEONS, P.C.
1 SOUTH GREENLEAF, SUITE A
GURNEE, IL 60031**

Paul N. Strohmayer, M.D., Aaron M. Siegel, M.D., Laurence Gibson, M.D.

PHONE: (847) 856-2525

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of AARON SIEGEL, M.D.
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010**

Hello, I'm Doctor Aaron Siegel. I'm a general surgeon at Lake County Surgeons, P.C. in Gurnee. I'm also pleased to be the Chairman of Surgery at Vista Medical Center East and a member of the Lake County Medical Society.

The location of Vista Health System's proposed emergency center is ideal. Medical personnel at the proposed center would have easy access to MRI, X-ray and ultrasound equipment and an EKG machine next door at the Vista Surgery Center.

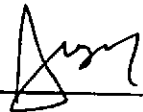
The proposed emergency center is designed to meet all regulatory requirements. It has helicopter landing capabilities. It has 24/7 ambulance services, and paramedic and emergency physician coverage. It is integrated within the regional EMS System because Vista East Medical Center is the controlling hospital for the proposed emergency center and the Resource Hospital for the regional EMS System. And, it is located in a community with less than 75,000 residents.

I know there is a tremendous need for better access to emergency care – particularly in the northern and western parts of Lake County. I also know that an emergency center in Lindenhurst will significantly improve access to emergency health care for all residents of Lake County, particularly those in the rapidly growing north central and

northwestern parts of Lake County

The proposed emergency center also would benefit the medically underserved patient populations in the projected service area, by giving them access to a hospital system that has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the uninsured and Medicaid populations in Lake County.

On behalf of my fellow surgeons and the residents of Lake County, I strongly encourage the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve Vista's plans to build an emergency center in Lindenhurst.



Aaron Siegel, M.D.

**LAKE COUNTY SURGEONS, P.C.
1 SOUTH GREENLEAF, SUITE A
GURNEE, IL 60031**

Paul N. Strohmayer, M.D., Aaron M. Siegel, M.D., Laurence Gibson, M.D.

PHONE: (847) 856-2525

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of PAUL STROHMAYER, MD
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010**

Hi. I am Dr. Paul Strohmayer, a general surgeon based in Gurnee with Lake County Surgeons. I chair the trauma committee at Vista Health System and I have first-hand experience in ER trauma care. I'd like to lend my full support for Vista's plans to provide emergency care in Lindenhurst.

Saving lives is the primary goal of emergency care. Patient access is an important part of meeting that goal. It is unreasonable that patients and first responders in northwestern and north central Lake County are being forced to travel long distances – possibly to a different state – to the nearest ER. Vista's Lindenhurst FEC will significantly decrease their drive times and give patients a better chance of full recovery.

The Lindenhurst emergency center will be on the same campus as Vista's Ambulatory Surgery Treatment Center. The center provides diagnostic and surgical treatment services to Lindenhurst and nearby communities. Emergency care staff at the FEC will utilize the surgery center's technology to perform quick diagnosis. Patients will get the care they need without sacrificing unnecessary time.

I strongly encourage you give residents in northwestern and north central Lake County closer access to the emergency care it needs by approving Vista's plans for a freestanding emergency center.



Paul Strohmayer, M.D.

Kristina M. Kovarik
Mayor



Fire Department
Gurnee

Fred N. Friedl III
Fire Chief

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of FRED FRIEDL
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 04, 2010**

Hello. My name is Fred Friedl and I am fire chief for the Village of Gurnee. I endorse Vista Health System's plan to build an emergency center in Lindenhurst.

With more than 35 years of fire and rescue experience, I know that every minute counts in the race to save a life. I have seen many cases where patients would have had better outcomes if they were closer to an emergency care center. Plain and simply, by reducing the outrageous time it takes residents of Northwest Lake County to reach emergency care, we will be saving more lives.

Right now, because of weather conditions, poor roads and congested traffic, what looks like a 20-minute trip to an emergency center can easily turn into 40 and far too many patients are at risk. If resources are available to build another emergency center, I see absolutely no reason not to.

On behalf of our department, I urge the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board to approve Vista's application for an emergency care center in Lindenhurst.

Thank you.

Fred N. Friedl III, CFO
Fire Chief
Gurnee Fire Department

Millburn Community Consolidated School

DISTRICT 24

18550 MILLBURN ROAD, WADSWORTH, ILLINOIS 60083

PHONE (847) 356-8331

FAX (847) 356-9722

www.millburn24.net

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of ELLEN MAUER
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 04, 2010**

Hello. My name is Dr. Ellen Mauer and I am Superintendent of Millburn School District #24. I am here today to offer support for the proposed Lindenhurst emergency center.

As a school superintendent, I know first-hand that schools are the perfect environment to catch a cold, flu, or fever. And, accidents can and do occur in the school buildings and on nearby athletic fields. We have nurses to provide day-to-day care, but parents and EMS personnel rely on emergency rooms for more serious injuries and illnesses.

The Vista Lindenhurst emergency center would allow our students and their families, and our teachers, prompt access to emergency health care.

I believe the Lindenhurst facility will benefit the entire community, including all school districts in the area. No child or adult alike should have to spend more time than is necessary in a car or ambulance for emergency health care. Given the population in our immediate community, and especially in light of the concentration of schools in the area, we should have an emergency center nearby.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'E. Mauer', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

Dr. Ellen E. Mauer



Village of Lindenhurst

2301 E. Sand Lake Road
Lindenhurst, Illinois 60046-8934

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of TIMOTHY WAYNE
10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 04, 2010**

Hello. My name is Timothy Wayne and I have been a trustee for the Village of Lindenhurst for six years and a resident for 14. I am here because Lindenhurst and the surrounding areas are in serious need of an emergency care facility.

I'm a youth sports coach and have seen many situations that involved emergency care in the last 10 years. Our fire and rescue squads can control the response time to an accident, but are powerless to improve access to an emergency room for treatment and stabilization. Vista's emergency center would be provide a great community service ... and if there's one thing we need in this great community of ours, it's better access to emergency health care.

The need is even more apparent when you look at the population of Lindenhurst. Our total numbers have increased in recent years, and we have more residents at or near retirement age. In the last ten years both the total population and the number of residents between the ages of 55 to 74 have increased 16 percent. Experts predict that there will continue to be steady growth in the years to come.

I ask, for the sake of all of north central and northwest Lake County, that you approve the Vista Lindenhurst Emergency Center so it can be built as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Timothy Wayne



Village of Lindenhurst

2301 E. Sand Lake Road
Lindenhurst, Illinois 60046-8934

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
OF RENEE METZELAAR
PROJECT # 10-018, VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER
MAY 4, 2010**

My name is Renee Metzelaar. I am a Trustee with the Village of Lindenhurst and served as Lindenhurst Park District Commissioner from 1999 to 2007. Lindenhurst has been my family's home since 1997.

I understand the importance of having quality emergency care in the neighborhood, both as a mom of three children and as a supporter of various youth sports. The Vista Lindenhurst Emergency Center will provide parents in our community peace of mind. Parents need to know that quality emergency care for their children is nearby.

Imagine riding in an ambulance with your injured or seriously ill child and having to travel long distances in heavy traffic to the nearest emergency room. Vista can't improve travel times in congested Lake County, but it can provide emergency care closer to those who need it. Every second counts in an emergency situation.

In addition, medical personnel at The Vista Lindenhurst Emergency Center will have access to MRI, X-ray and ultrasound equipment. Easy access to this equipment will allow patients to be treated and released more quickly. There is also a helipad already on site that can be used by the emergency center. This can change the outcome in a life or death situation.

The Vista Lindenhurst Emergency Center will be an invaluable asset to our community. I urge you to join me in supporting this project.


Renee Metzelaar

ELEANOR MURKEY

*2749 Alan Court
Waukegan, Illinois 60085
(847) 66-8044*

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
Of ELEANOR MURKEY
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010**

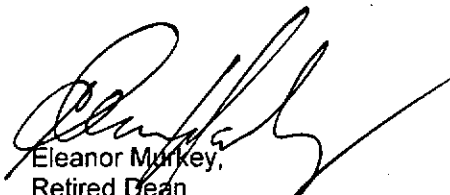
I'm Eleanor Murkey, the former dean of the College of Lake County Campus in Waukegan. The College of Lake County is a community college that serves about 16,000 students each semester with a wide range of academic programs. We've partnered with Vista Health System to offer a clinical training program for CLC nursing students.

I've lived in Lake County for the past 35 years and know first-hand that Vista Health System is committed to enhancing the quality of life for all residents of Lake County. Not only has Vista invested in the students attending the College of Lake County, but it also has improved its facilities in Waukegan and continues to offer state-of-the-art services for the county. That is why I would like to voice my support for Vista Health System's plans to build an emergency center in Lindenhurst.

Allowing Vista to build an emergency center will help strengthen its existing dedication to providing critical safety net health care to the medically underserved populations in Lake County. Vista provided 3.3 million dollars in charity care last year – nearly a million more dollars in charity care than in 2008.

As you're aware, Vista also operates the only hospitals that are located in an economically disadvantaged area in the county. Therefore, it's imperative that Vista has the continued ability to serve as the safety net provider by allowing Vista an improved balance of service areas.

I urge the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board to grant Vista's request to build this much-needed new emergency center.


Eleanor Murkey,
Retired Dean
College of Lake County

LAKE VILLA COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT #41

131 McKinley Avenue Lake Villa, Illinois 60046-8986 www.district41.org Phone:847/356-2385 Fax: 847/356-2670

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of DR. JOHN VAN PELT
PROJECT # 10-018, VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER**

MAY 4, 2010

Thank you for allowing me to express my support for Vista Health System's proposed Freestanding Emergency Center.

I am Dr. John Van Pelt, Superintendent of Lake Villa School District 41, which serves more than 3,300 students in the communities of Ingleside, Lake Villa, Lindenhurst, Round Lake Beach, Round Lake Heights, Venetian Village and West Miltmore.

The truth of the matter is injuries occur. School nurses are on duty to provide care but on occasion a student must be transported to a medical facility. Once the Emergency Medical Service arrives, it could take 30 minutes or more to reach the hospital. That is an unreasonable amount of time.

Lake County's highway system is outdated and has been undergoing improvements under the Five Year Highway Improvement Program for 2009-2014. Not only do we have delays caused by road construction but we have congested two-lane roads, roads that curve around the area's many lakes and railroad lines that block the streets.

It is our duty to protect these students and provide them with the best possible care. Every teacher, every coach and every parent would want a freestanding emergency center in close proximity that can offer prompt and responsive care for accidents and severe illnesses.

I urge you to accept this proposal.


John Van Pelt



First Midwest

First Midwest Bank
214 Washington Street
Waukegan, Illinois 60085
(847) 623-1250

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of Beth Ragsdale, Board Member, Vista Health System
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010**

Hello. I am Beth Ragsdale, a board member of Vista Health System. I also am a vice president at First Midwest Bank. Today, I am here to show my support for Vista's proposal to build a Freestanding Emergency Center in Lindenhurst.

One of the reasons I became involved with Vista Health System is because of its strong commitment to caring for everyone in our community – especially those who are medically underserved and economically disadvantaged. Vista East and Vista West are the primary “safety net” hospitals in Lake County, and have substantially increased their amount of charity care since 2006.

Vista's dedication to the community is in tune with my personal values, as well as with the philosophy of my workplace, First Midwest Bank, which has earned a reputation for truly caring about the communities we serve. Our bank and our employees dive in and get to work, hands-on to help people in need. We like to say that we put the words “social responsibility” into real action. First Midwest Bank also perennially receives an “outstanding” rating under the Community Reinvestment Act, a designation awarded to only 10 percent of all depository institutions nationally for efforts to meet credit needs of the communities in which they operate.

The way I see it, Vista's plan for a Freestanding Emergency Center will improve, in a cost-effective manner, access to emergency services in Lake County. It also will reduce the imbalance in the way emergency department services are distributed across Lake County. Right now, emergency services are concentrated in eastern and southern Lake County. There is a need for emergency services for the north and western parts of the county.

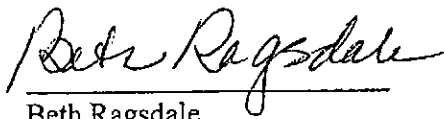


Member FDIC

Vista Medical Center East is the only resource hospital for the Northern Lake County Emergency Medical Services Center. The Lindenhurst emergency center will operate under the direction of the Vista East Emergency Department, which is a Level Two trauma center. This fulfills one of the state's important licensing requirements for a freestanding emergency center.

Because Vista Health System has always supported additional medical services for all of Lake County, we did not oppose Lake Forest Hospital's application for a freestanding emergency center in Grayslake. Even with the Grayslake center, we believe there is still a need for more emergency services in Lake County – especially in the underserved areas of the county.

Thank you.


Beth Ragsdale



**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of KAREN McCORMICK, RN, MSN
PROJECT # 10-018, VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER
MAY 4, 2010**

I am in full support of Vista's plan to build a freestanding emergency center in Lindenhurst. My name is Karen McCormick and I am the Nursing Director for both of Vista's Emergency Departments. I am also one of approximately 40,000 people who live within 10 minutes of Vista Surgery Center.

Both of Vista Health System's Emergency Departments provide a high level of care. Our expert teams include board-certified physicians and specially-trained nurses. These clinicians see every type of emergency that you can imagine and they confidently care for everyone that comes through our doors. This quality of care will not change for those who receive care at Vista's FEC in Lindenhurst. Our ER team will have access to equipment such as CT scanners, ultrasound, and MRIs. There is no doubt that the residents of Lindenhurst will be in excellent hands when they receive care in that location.

I am an emergency room nurse. I am also the mother of small children and a daughter to an aging parent. I worry about driving 30 or more minutes to the nearest ER on traffic-clogged roads if anything should happen to any of them. I don't know of anyone who wants to sit in gridlock on Highway 45 South or Milwaukee Ave, while their loved one is in need of emergency care. Vista's FEC will be a good thing for my community. It will give us timely access to the care that we often need.

I have been a Lake County resident for most of my adult life. I have witnessed many health care systems plan to serve the residents of Lindenhurst but never following through on their promises. Vista Health System is the only one that has consistently stepped up to the plate to deliver health care services to this community.

Vista's previous plan to provide acute hospital care in Lindenhurst was opposed by certain other hospitals in the area, and that is very unfortunate. I can only hope those hospitals realize that the best interests of Lindenhurst residents are served by having Vista's proposed emergency center available to them for prompt, high quality emergency medical care.

Vista is committed to the community of Lindenhurst and already has an established presence at many of our community events. To give you just one small example...a week ago, Vista donated bike helmets to protect 300 Lindenhurst area children. Gestures like this, made over the course of a decade, have caused Vista to be part of the fabric of our community. I urge the planning board to allow Vista to expand the care that it gives to me and to my neighbors. I ask that you approve its plan for the Lindenhurst FEC.


Karen McCormick

Lindenhurst Pediatrics

PEDIATRICS
ASHOK PHADKE, M.D.
Professional Building
2031 East Grand Avenue
Lindenhurst, IL 60046
847-356-5575
Fax 847-356-1792

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of ASHOK PHADKE, M.D.
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 04, 2010**

Hello, I am Dr. Ashok Phadke and I am a board-certified pediatrician affiliated with Vista Health System.

Vista's proposed Lindenhurst emergency center has received widespread support from elected officials, community leaders, physicians, and patients. Almost everyone in the community will agree that there is a need for this center.

My patients and their families would appreciate the convenience of an emergency center closer to their homes because...as we all know...accidents and illnesses can happen at inconvenient times. The freestanding emergency center will allow parents in the area to get help quickly for their children, without traveling congested roads to hospitals or emergency centers that are much farther away.

I'm also gratified to see that this center will be next door to Vista's well-established surgery center, which is an added benefit for any patient who visits the center. Vista is ready to build this center as soon as possible and I, along with my patients, hope that happens.

Thank you.



Ashok Phadke, M.D.



**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
OF SUZANNE SIMPSON
PROJECT # 10-018
(VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010**

17801 W. Washington Street
Gurnee, Illinois 60031
Phone: 847-244-1101
Fax: 847-244-2822

Suzanne D. Simpson
Supervisor

Marge Keenan-Denniston
Clerk

Gerald E. Rudd
Highway Commissioner

Carol A. Stried
Assessor

Donna L. Radke
Trustee

Bill Gill
Trustee

Kenneth B. Echtenacher
Trustee

Mike Semmerling
Trustee

My name is Suzanne Simpson. Since 1997, I have been the Warren Township Supervisor. Warren Township has 65,000 residents.

I support Vista Health System's proposal for a new emergency care center in Lindenhurst because it will give our residents better access to emergency care.

Vista's emergency center will serve residents in the north central and northwestern areas of Lake County. A significant portion of these residents live more than 20 minutes from the closest emergency center and have to take congested roadways to get there. Every minute counts, whether it's a family driving a child to an emergency room at 2 a.m. or an ambulance transporting an accident victim during the day.

Vista's plans are in response to the rapid population increase our area has experienced in the last 10 years. And, because we have more people, the number of accidents has also increased. Whether it's injuries caused by a car crash, a mother going into labor or a person falling off a ladder, it's important that all residents get the quickest and best emergency care.

I believe the Vista Lindenhurst Emergency Center will provide necessary and progressive health care to all residents in Lake County. Therefore, I ask you to approve Vista's plan.

Suzanne D. Simpson
Warren Township Supervisor

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of GEETHA REDDY, MD
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010**

I am Dr. Geetha Reddy, a cardiologist on staff at Vista Health System. I'd like to share some of the reasons why I am a supporter of Vista's plan to build an emergency center in Lindenhurst.


Anyone who has ever had chest pains can tell you that it is a scary experience. In those situations, a person needs to receive medical care right away, to determine whether the pains are a sign of a heart attack or something much less serious.

It saddens me to know that communities in Northern Lake County lack proper access to emergency care. These patients should not have to drive long distances and deal with the stress of congested highways while having heart problems. Vista's proposed FEC will give them a fighting chance by placing the care they need at their doorstep.

The location of the FEC will be ideal for easy access to emergency services. Deep Lake Road and Grand Avenue are major streets that residents of northern Lake County use almost every day.

Vista's emergency center in Lindenhurst will give patients access to so much more. Its Ambulatory Surgery Center is currently located on the property. The facility is a 4-room, licensed full-service treatment center. It houses extensive diagnostic imaging services. That technology will assist cardiologists like myself with the timely planning of treatment for cardiac patients we admit from the FEC.

I cannot stress enough the significance of proximity to emergency care. What Vista is asking for is very reasonable. It has the potential to save lives. I strongly encourage the planning board to consider what is at stake for the residents of northern Lake County. I also encourage each of you to approve Vista's proposed FEC.



Geetha Reddy, M.D. 4-30-10



**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of DR. YASHBIR METHA
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010**

I am a radiation oncologist at Advanced Radiation Oncology Center in Gurnee. I am affiliated with Vista Health System and support its plans to build a freestanding emergency center (FEC) in Lindenhurst.

The main reason I stand behind this proposal is because I know how much Vista is committed to providing comprehensive, quality health care to every patient, regardless of insurance carrier or income. Vista and my radiation center take pride in caring for the people in the community, especially the disadvantaged. You can trust Vista to act in good faith and in the treatment of anyone who comes through the door of the FEC.

An FEC in Lindenhurst will address a critical need for easily accessible emergency care in that part of the county. The location of the new emergency room also affords medical personnel easy access to EKG, MRI, X-ray and ultrasound equipment in the Vista Surgery and Treatment Center, which will help in making quick diagnoses of patients' conditions.

Another reason why I stand behind Vista is because I know that its goal is to save lives and improve a patient's chance of recovery by reducing the EMS transport times in north central and northwest Lake County. This is an admirable and worthwhile goal. It should be everyone's goal. I don't understand why anyone would oppose Vista's plan to build an emergency care center. Lindenhurst is a hub for many of these remote communities. Residents who live in Antioch, Lake Villa, Round Lake and Lindenhurst will benefit the most from this project.

My patients who live in these areas often tell me that it is not simply that they want reasonable access to emergency medical care, but that they NEED it. Emergency health care is a necessity for all, not a luxury for some.

Yashbir Mehta, M.D.



Village of Lindenhurst

2301 E. Sand Lake Road
Lindenhurst, Illinois 60046-8934

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of PATTY CHYBOWSKI
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 04, 2010**

Hello. My name is Patty Chybowski and I am a trustee for the Village of Lindenhurst.

Throughout my time in Lindenhurst, I have always advocated for improved health care access for our residents, and it has also been a goal of the village board.

When Vista approached us about adding an emergency care center onto their existing surgery center, we were thrilled. In fact, 20 years ago when the property was originally annexed, the Village of Lindenhurst envisioned a health care center on the campus.

Along with improved emergency care for Lindenhurst and the surrounding area, Vista's center will bring peace of mind. The vast majority of Lindenhurst homeowners are families with children, and, as of 2009, 6 percent of residents were above the age of 65. If this center is approved, all residents will have confidence they will get the immediate if an accident or medical emergency occurs.

I would like to commend Vista Health Systems for evaluating the needs of our county and providing a solution to our problem of poor access to emergency care. Please approve Vista's request.

Thank you.



Patty Chybowski



Village of Lindenhurst

2301 E. Sand Lake Road
Lindenhurst, Illinois 60046-8934

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of BILL ANDERSON
PROJECT # 10-018, VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER
MAY 4, 2010**

My name is Bill Anderson and I am a Trustee for the Village of Lindenhurst. I support Vista's plan to construct a freestanding emergency center in our town.


The residents of Lindenhurst, as well as those in Antioch, Lake Villa, and Round Lake, would greatly benefit from the services offered at Vista's Lindenhurst emergency center.

Our communities are growing rapidly. For example, Lindenhurst's population increased by more than 2,000 in the last decade. One major problem, however, is that our access to health care has not improved – it's not convenient for residents to visit a hospital or emergency center.

Vista's proposed emergency center will include six treatment rooms and a trauma room, and would fill a need that this part of Lake County has had for a long time.

Vista's project would allow us all to have better access to emergency care and that is why I support Vista Health System's plan.

Thank you.


Bill Anderson

Jill Basten
17759 Iroquois Drive
Wildwood, IL 60030
847-436-5605

PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of Jill Basten
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010

Hi. My name is Jill Basten. I'm a unit secretary in the New Family Center at Vista East and have worked at Vista for 39 years. I've also been a patient at Vista – in January, I had heart bypass surgery at Vista East.

I received excellent care at Vista before, during and after my surgery ... and not everyone knew I was an employee. I was very impressed with the people in ICU, my cardiologist Dr. Onsager, and everyone else I encountered at Vista during my stay. I've also had a great experience visiting the Vista Surgery Center in Lindenhurst, which is about 10 minutes from my home in Wildwood. I'm certain that Vista will offer that same great level of care at its proposed emergency center in Lindenhurst.

I know many people who would really benefit from having an emergency center there – in particular, my sister and friends who live in Antioch. They have few options for emergency care where they live. It can take them 30 to 45 minutes, depending on traffic, to reach the closest emergency center in Lake County or McHenry County. That is just scary – I can't imagine what it must be like to wait that long to get help when you have an emergency.

I hope you'll approve Vista's request to build an emergency center. It will help a lot of people get better care and feel more secure.

Thank you,



Jill Basten



PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of Marc Trznadel, Chief Nursing Officer, Vista Health System
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010

Good afternoon. I am Marc Trznadel, Chief Nursing Officer of Vista Health System. I am here today to testify in support of Vista Health System's application to build a Freestanding Emergency Center in Lindenhurst.

As Chief Nursing Officer, I am responsible for Vista's clinical care. As I see it, one of society's biggest challenges is getting good quality health care to people who need it, out into their communities. There is a great need in Lake County. And Vista Health System is committed to serving that need. In a word, it's all about access.

If you look at a map of Lake County, you will see that most of the health care services – and especially the emergency care services – are heavily concentrated in eastern and southern Lake County. To use the health-care jargon term, there is a "maldistribution" of emergency services in much of Lake County, particularly the west and north portions of the county. And, in the last decade, the population in the west and north areas of the county has grown very rapidly. Population growth has ranged from 8 percent to 182 percent in those north and west Lake County towns.

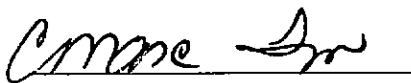
Vista wants to correct that uneven distribution of emergency services and that lack of access to care – in a cost-effective manner. And, fortunately, the Illinois Legislature created a category of health care license – the Freestanding Emergency Center – to

address the problem of access to health care in smaller communities. In our case, the Lindenhurst Freestanding Emergency Center would be controlled by the Vista East Medical Center, which is a Level Two Trauma Center and is the Resource Hospital for the North Lake County EMS System.

According to our design, and to comply with the state's rules, Vista's Lindenhurst emergency center will have 24-hour-a-day ambulance services and paramedic coverage, and emergency physicians on staff 24 hours a day. In addition, our nurses will be trained emergency department nurses. We will have Emergency Communications Radio Nurses, who are trained to communicate about patient care by radio with paramedics in the field and with the emergency departments at Vista East and Vista West hospitals.

Some people may say that because there is an emergency center in Grayslake, one is not needed in Lindenhurst. That is not true. The Lindenhurst location will be able to provide much faster – and therefore more accessible – emergency care to people who live in the north and west areas of Lake County. All people in Lake County deserve access to good emergency care.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. Marc Trznadel", written over a horizontal line.

C. Marc Trznadel



Village of Lindenhurst

2301 E. Sand Lake Road
Lindenhurst, Illinois 60046-8934

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of Patrick Dunham
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010**

Hi. I'm Patrick Dunham. I am a trustee on the village board of Lindenhurst, a town I've lived in since 1994. My family – which includes my wife, son and daughter – would all benefit from having emergency care nearby and that's one reason why I support Vista's proposal for an emergency care center in our hometown.

But, as a village leader, I'm also constantly looking at the big picture. And I've learned, after talking with neighbors in Lindenhurst and other folks in nearby towns, that this emergency center fills a vital need. We all need better access to emergency health care. Thank goodness Vista sees that need and is eager to help this underserved part of Lake County with an emergency center.

As a 20-plus year veteran of the United States Navy Reserves, I have a unique perspective. I've served in two wars – the Persian Gulf War and Operation Iraqi Freedom. I know all about good order, discipline and what it's like to lead a well-run organization. I've been impressed with the level of commitment and quality of care at Vista, which, remarkably, provides more Medicaid services than any other county hospital and pays taxes to support our schools, towns and public safety professionals.

I ask you, on behalf of all the citizens of Lindenhurst and the surrounding area, to approve this emergency center.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Patrick J. Dunham'.

Patrick J. Dunham
Village of Lindenhurst Trustee

Lindenhurst - Lake Villa Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 6075 • Lindenhurst, IL 60046
Phone: 847.356.8446 • Fax: 847.356.8561
E-mail: llvchamber@sbcglobal.net
www.llvchamber.com

***PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of CONNIE MEADIE
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010***

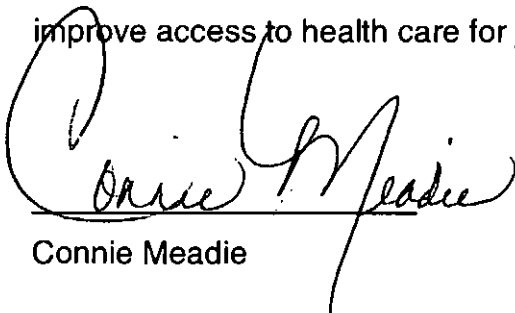
Hi, my name is Connie Meadie, executive director of the Lindenhurst/Lake Villa Chamber of Commerce, and I support of Vista's new emergency center.

The Chamber is always looking to attract businesses to our communities. To do so, we have to demonstrate that Lindenhurst and Lake Villa are desirable locations to operate a business and raise a family. One of the hurdles we face is that we don't have rapid access to emergency care. Vista's proposal will address that void and strengthen our offerings to new businesses and their employees and families.

A second goal of the Chamber is to create new job opportunities in our communities. Vista's emergency center will add an estimated 50 jobs for Lake County residents. This will further strengthen the economy in northern Lake County.

The fact that Vista plans to build the emergency center on its existing health care campus in Lindenhurst ensures residents will have easy access to a multitude of services including MRIs, ultrasounds and diagnostic labs during their visit to the emergency center.

I strongly encourage you to support Vista's plans to build an emergency center in Lindenhurst to improve access to health care for all Lake County residents.



Connie Meadie



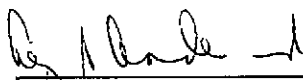
**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of DAISY ANDALEON, MD
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010**

I'm Daisy Andaleon, and I am a family medicine physician. Vista Health System has been a great supporter of my practice and I am happy to lend them my support today.

Vista aligns itself with industry standards to enhance the care it gives to patients. It is known for providing timely emergency care at its two locations. Vista's Lindenhurst FEC will be a third and much needed location. It will provide care for over 40, 000 residents who currently can drive 30 minutes or more to the nearest emergency room at peak travel times.

My patients live all across Northern Lake County and they do not have ready access to emergency services. Instead, they drive through traffic or sit in it. While every ER case may not be critical, my patients appreciate having qualified medical professionals close by. The emergency care staff at Vista's Lindenhurst FEC will provide the peace of mind that patients often seek.

Vista consistently provides the best health care at all of its convenient locations by focusing on what each patient needs. Lindenhurst is a growing community with a need for nearby emergency care. I admire Vista's willingness to support the people of this community and their wellbeing. I ask you to join me in giving them your full support as well.


Daisy Andaleon, M.D.



Family Practice: Dr. Marina Gladson Dr. Young Lee Dr. Terry Joy Dr. Amy Swift-Johnson Dr. Dennis Thain Dr. Robert Thain Dr. Daisy Andaleon Dr. Pedro Paluay Dr. Richard Margolin Dr. Kimberly Morstadt	1050 Red Oak Lane, Lindenhurst, IL 60046 701 14th Street, North Chicago, IL 60064 300 N. Milwaukee, Lake Villa, IL 60046 300 N. Milwaukee, Lake Villa, IL 60046 707 Main Street, Antioch, IL 60009 707 Main Street, Antioch, IL 60009 300 N. Milwaukee, Lake Villa, IL 60046 2806 Elisha Avenue, Zion, IL 60099 15 Commerce Drive, Grayslake, IL 60030 15 Commerce Drive, Grayslake, IL 60030	Hospitalist: Dr. Mahaj Karingada Dr. Nelly Kviriyadze Dr. Mushiaq Mohammed	1324 North Sheridan Road, Waukegan, IL 60085 1324 North Sheridan Road, Waukegan, IL 60085 1324 North Sheridan Road, Waukegan, IL 60085
Neurosurgery: Dr. James Adamson	200 S. Greenleaf, Gurnee, IL 60031	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation: Dr. Joseph Craig Dr. Janaki Natarajan	2615 Washington Street, Waukegan, IL 60082 2615 Washington Street, Waukegan, IL 60082
		Dermatologist: Dr. Neda Tralcevic	30 Tower Court, Gurnee, IL 60031
		Psychiatry: Dr. Uzoma Okoli Dr. Art Pogre	2615 Washington Street, Waukegan, IL 60085 2615 Washington Street, Waukegan, IL 60085



**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
of BRIAN SOBECK
PROJECT # 10-018 (VISTA LINDENHURST EMERGENCY CENTER)
MAY 4, 2010**

My name is Brian Sobek, and I am the Director of Emergency Medical Services at Vista Medical Center East. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of Vista Health System. I wish to express my support of the Lindenhurst project to build a satellite emergency center. Approving this project is a good idea for several reasons.

1. This freestanding emergency center will ensure that emergency care is more accessible to those living in north central and northwestern Lake County.
2. The EMS Providers in the North Lake County EMS System in 2009 transported 472 Illinois residents to Wisconsin hospitals because of the lack of accessible care in our county. Illinois residents should not have to be transported out of state to receive medical care in Lake County in these modern times.
3. The EMS Providers in our EMS System are stretched thin, especially with the current economic times. By having the free standing emergency department closer to their stations it will reduce their travel times and the time they are out of service for their community. This will reduce the need to have multiple backup ambulances and the staffing to man them.
4. The freestanding emergency center will function under the direction of Vista Medical Center East's Emergency Department and Medical Director Dr. Kenji Oyasu. The emergency department at Vista Medical Center East is a Level II trauma center, an accredited chest pain center by the Societies of Chest Pain Centers and a certified primary stroke center by The Joint Commission. And, Vista Medical Center East is also the only resource hospital for the Northern Lake County Emergency Medical Services System.
5. The emergency trained medical personnel and board-certified doctors that will staff this freestanding emergency center will have easy access to the advanced diagnostic imaging and lab services associated with the Vista Surgery and Treatment Center.
6. If comprehensive services are required, the freestanding emergency department will have an ambulance on site 24/7 with two paramedics to transfer patients after being stabilized by the emergency room staff.
7. If more comprehensive services are required and time is of the essence, there is a heliport at the Lindenhurst site as well as at Vista Medical Center East, making it extremely quick and easy to transport the most seriously ill and injured patients after they have been stabilized. Surgical and treatment rooms can be prepared in advance of the patient's arrival should he or she requires such interventions.

Vista is committed to providing better access to care. Please support the Lindenhurst FEC at the June meeting and give the residents of northwestern Lake County what they need and are asking for—an easily accessible emergency center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Sobek".

Brian Sobek
Director EMS
Vista Health System