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**STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

**CENTEGRA HOSPITAL-HUNTLEY
PROJECT 10-090**

PUBLIC HEARING

FEBRUARY 16, 2011

ORIGINAL

NATIONWIDE SCHEDULING

OFFICES: MISSOURI Springfield Jefferson City Kansas City Columbia Rolla Cape Girardeau ■ KANSAS Overland Park ■ ILLINOIS Springfield

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761
217-782-3516

PUBLIC HEARING

Re: Project #10-090, Centegra Hospital-Huntley

Public hearing held on February 16, 2011, at the
Huntley Municipal Complex, Village Board Meeting Room,
10987 Main Street, Huntley, Illinois, before Courtney Avery
and Frank Urso, Facilitators.

Reported by:

Karen K. Keim
CRR, RPR CSR-IL, CRR-MO
Midwest Litigation Services
401 N. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611

1 MS. AVERY: Good morning, everyone. I'm
2 Courtney Avery, Administrator of the Health Facilities and
3 Services Review Board, and this is Frank Urso, General
4 Counsel. We're both Staff for the Illinois Health
5 Facilities and Services Review Board. Our purpose here
6 today is to act as the hearing officer and facilitator for
7 Project No. 10-090, Centegra Hospital in Huntley, Illinois.

8 The applicants for this project are Centegra
9 Health Systems and Centegra Hospital-Huntley, who are
10 proposing to establish a 128-bed acute care hospital on the
11 east side of Haligus Road between Algonquin Road and Reed
12 Road in Huntley Illinois. The approximate project cost for
13 this hospital is \$233,160,352.

14 As per the Rules of the Illinois Health
15 Facilities and Services Review Board, I would like to read
16 into the record the previously-posted Legal Notice.

17 Notice of Review and Opportunity for Public
18 Hearing and Written Comment. In accordance with the
19 requirements of the Illinois Health Facilities Planning
20 Act, notice is given of receipt to establish a 128-bed
21 acute care hospital. Project No. 10-090, Centegra
22 Hospital-Huntley in Huntley, Illinois. The applicants are
23 Centegra Health System and Centegra Hospital-Huntley.
24 Again, the applicants propose to establish a 128-bed acute

1 care hospital on the east side of Haligus Road, between
2 Algonquin Road and Reed Road in Huntley, Illinois.

3 The public hearing is to be held by the
4 Illinois Department of Public Health pursuant to the
5 Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act. The hearing is
6 open to the public and will afford an opportunity for
7 parties with interest to present in written and/or verbal
8 comment relevant to the project. All allegations or
9 assertions should be relevant to the need for the proposed
10 project and be supported with two copies of documentation
11 or materials that are printed or typed on paper, size 8 1/2
12 x 11. Consideration by the State Board has been
13 tentatively scheduled for May 10th, 2011. The public
14 hearing will take place pursuant to Part 1130.910. The
15 hearing is scheduled for 10 a.m., February 16th, 2011,
16 located at the Huntley Municipal Complex, the Village Board
17 Meeting Room at 10987 Main Street in Huntley, Illinois.

18 For additional information, call 217-782-3516.
19 Any persons wanting to submit written comments on this
20 project must submit these comments by 9 a.m. April 20th,
21 2011. The application for the project can be viewed on the
22 Board's website at www.hfsrb.gov.

23 If you have not already done so, there are
24 forms that are circulating to sign in, and in making sure

1 that we use the appropriate registration forms, there is a
2 green form for those individuals who would like to provide
3 testimony in support of the project. The blue form is for
4 those individuals who would like to provide testimony in
5 opposition of the project. The yellow form is for those
6 individuals who would like to register their attendance,
7 support, opposition, or neutral, but do not wish to
8 testify.

9 To ensure that the State Board public hearings
10 protect the privacy and maintain the confidentiality of an
11 individual's health information, covered entities as
12 defined by the Health Insurance Portability Act of 1996,
13 such as facilities, hospital providers, health plans, and
14 healthcare clearing houses, submitting oral or written
15 testimony that discloses protected health information of
16 individuals should have a valid written authorization from
17 that individual. The authorization shall allow the covered
18 entity to share the individual's protected health
19 information at this hearing.

20 Those of you who came with prepared text for
21 your presentation may choose to submit the text without
22 giving testimony. However, if you give oral testimony,
23 please be as brief as possible, and with the crowd today,
24 we're probably going to have to limit it to about three

1 minutes. Anyone who would want to speak for more than
2 three minutes may do so after everyone else has had the
3 opportunity to speak. Per the Legal Notice, if possible,
4 please provide two copies of your testimony, and when
5 making your presentation, please give the Court Reporter
6 the spelling of your complete name.

7 If there is a lead spokesperson for the
8 applicant, we would like to have that individual make the
9 first presentation. The remaining testimonies -- we'll try
10 to take them in the order in which they registered, but
11 that probably won't happen today. Please hold any
12 questions. I'm assuming that Mike Eesley represents the
13 Applicant.

14 MR. EESLEY: Yes.

15 MS. AVERY: I'm assuming that we're okay with
16 the capacity. If not the Fire Marshal will let us know,
17 and my understanding is that there are two rooms that have
18 been set up for monitoring. So, if people want to not
19 stand but still be able to hear the public hearing, there
20 are rooms that are set up for that. Thank you.

21 MR. EESLEY: I'm Mike Eesley President --
22 actually Chief Executive Officer of Centegra Health System.
23 I'm here to give support testimony for our project in
24 Huntley. Good morning. We truly appreciate everyone being

1 here today to hear about our testimony.

2 I've been in my position for nine years as a
3 CEO, and I'm proud to be a part of an award-winning health
4 system that is rooted in McHenry County and committed to
5 people it serves. Our hospital has played an integral role
6 in the lives of area residents for nearly a hundred years.
7 We hope to continue serving the community by receiving
8 permission to build Centegra Hospital-Huntley.

9 During my twelve years I have worked at
10 Centegra Health System, we have steadily focused on the
11 population growth in McHenry and Kane Counties. At
12 Centegra Health System we have grown accordingly. Our plan
13 to bring a hospital to southern McHenry County and northern
14 Kane County was not designed overnight. Five years ago we
15 identified a need in the southern portion of McHenry
16 County. That's when we purchased 110 acres of the land for
17 our healthcare campus in Huntley. We promised to provide
18 increasing access to care to area residents as they grew
19 with us.

20 In 2008, we opened Centegra Immediate Care -
21 Huntley. Since then a thousand residents -- more than a
22 thousand residents from Huntley, Lake in the Hills,
23 Algonquin, Lakewood, Crystal Lake and surrounding
24 communities have benefited from our top-notch healthcare

1 and wellness services right in their own back yard.

2 If approved Centegra Hospital-Huntley will be
3 a 128-bed community hospital with 100 medical/surgical
4 beds, 8 intensive care beds, 20 obstetric beds, and a Level
5 II nursery. All beds will be private rooms. The hospital
6 will have a comprehensive Emergency Department,
7 non-invasive cardiology services, and a dedicated women's
8 center. Centegra Hospital-Huntley will be designated to
9 meet -- or designed to meet the area's current and future
10 needs.

11 Centegra has long been a leading economic
12 force in McHenry County area, which is why we have received
13 numerous awards from nearby chambers and have been named
14 the Business Champion of McHenry County Economic
15 Development Corporation. We currently employ 3,700
16 associates, and if we receive approval for construction of
17 the new hospital in Huntley, we will probably welcome 1,100
18 more to our family.

19 Furthermore, we have estimated our proposed
20 project in Huntley will have an economic impact of \$152
21 million to our area communities and bring more than 800 new
22 jobs to the community during the construction period.
23 Centegra provided health education and wellness to 252
24 community events in 2010. With our 14 wonderful local

1 board members, they help us remind us routinely and daily
2 of the care we need to provide to our area residents who
3 are in the greatest need of services. We are the leading
4 provider of charity care in the area, last year providing
5 over \$53 million in community benefit to the greater
6 McHenry County region. Building upon the commitment, we
7 are always looking for ways to give back to our community
8 that we call home.

9 We play an active role in the Family
10 Partnership Clinic, the Northern Illinois Special
11 Recreation Association, and the Pioneer Center, to name a
12 few organizations. Their efforts are focused on providing
13 wellness and care to those in greatest need.

14 Centegra seeks (sic) in accordance with the
15 area identified need. We respect the Illinois Health
16 Facilities and Service Review Board in its mission to
17 promote an orderly and economic development of healthcare
18 facilities in the state of Illinois that avoid unnecessary
19 duplication of facilities. The Review Board's most recent
20 bed figure show that McHenry County has the greatest need
21 of additional medical/surgery beds in the planning areas of
22 our state, and northern Kane County is the second greatest
23 need. Our proposed hospital in Huntley is ideally situated
24 to serve the recognized need of McHenry and northern Kane

1 Counties.

2 We have carefully addressed the Review Board's
3 criteria for establishing a new hospital and have submitted
4 an application in accordance with the criteria. We know
5 from the State's population projections and the need of
6 hospital services will increase years ahead in the areas we
7 are proposed to serve. Population growth is an important
8 factor of assessing demand in healthcare services under the
9 Review Board's criteria, and we have documented rapid
10 population growth in Huntley and surrounding communities.

11 The support for this proposal has been
12 overwhelming from the community leaders, patients, area
13 residents, and physicians, and other caregivers. You will
14 hear from many of those today. We are looking forward to
15 the opportunity to present our plans in greater detail and
16 will do our part in leading the advanced medical edge of
17 community services in healthcare to the local McHenry
18 County area for years to come. Thank you very much.

19 (Applause)

20 MS. AVERY: Next we have Chuck Sass.

21 MR. SASS: Thank you. I'm Chuck Sass,
22 S-a-s-s, Mayor of the Village of Huntley.

23 Crowd reminds me of the amount of people that
24 come to our board meetings. I'm just kidding. Good

1 morning and welcome to Huntley.

2 It is with great pride that I stand here today
3 on behalf of the more than 24,000 -- I did say 23, but I
4 see the census figures came out yesterday and now we are
5 over 24,000 -- residents of our village and offer our
6 wholehearted support to the Centegra Hospital-Huntley.
7 With my testimony I'm also including, for the record, a
8 Resolution of Support, approved unanimously by the Huntley
9 Village Board on January 27th, 2011.

10 Since Centegra first announced its vision for
11 a hospital in our community, I have heard from area
12 residents and businesses who are excited about the plan.
13 It is clear that so many others recognize what those of us
14 in Huntley have known for many years: Residents here and
15 in surrounding areas need improved access to healthcare.
16 Huntley in southern McHenry County has been at the heart of
17 the regional population growth for the past decade and
18 more. As Village President since 2001, I've watched our
19 community grow exponentially and worked tirelessly to
20 manage growth and to make our village attractive for both
21 residences and businesses alike.

22 According to the 2008 special census,
23 Huntley's population grew at an annual rate of 19.1 percent
24 between the years of 2000 and 2008. In total, that is more

1 than a 300 percent increase since 2000, and as you will
2 hear from my colleagues in the neighboring communities
3 Algonquin, Lake of the Hills, Gilberts, and others, we are
4 not alone. These are the exact communities a proposed new
5 hospital is designed to serve.

6 Huntley is home to the largest active adult
7 community for those 55 and over in the state, with more
8 than 10,000 residents in the Del Webb's Sun City. We are
9 also home to a large number of young families with young
10 children. This combination of residents makes having a
11 full-service hospital in our community with easy access
12 that much more imperative.

13 From the State Department of Public Health's
14 own data, our communities are under served and in need of
15 additional hospital beds. Centegra is a healthcare
16 provider that has stepped up to the plate to meet this
17 need. They invested in our community with millions of
18 dollars to build an immediate care facility, physician
19 offices, and outpatient services. No other health system
20 in the region has recognized the need in our region and
21 taken the necessary steps to address these needs. Centegra
22 is committed to our community.

23 We stand strongly behind the proposal for
24 Centegra Hospital-Huntley. We ask those who claim a

1 hospital isn't needed to look around this room at the
2 supporters, look at the population of our communities, and
3 look at the needs outlined by the State health officials.
4 Now is the right time. Huntley is the right place for a
5 new full-service acute care hospital in McHenry County.
6 Thank you.

7 (Applause)

8 MS. AVERY: Mr. Rick Floyd.

9 For the audience's information, I'm going to
10 try to switch it up between support and opposition. So
11 we'll go back to the applicants after two oppositions.

12 MR. FLOYD: Good morning. My name is Rick
13 Floyd, F-l-o-y-d. I'm President, CEO of Sherman Health
14 which is based in Elgin, Illinois. Sherman is a regional
15 medical center that has been serving Chicago's northwest
16 suburban communities for over 120 years. We have served
17 Huntley since the village was founded.

18 Sherman's position regarding the proposed
19 Centegra hospital in Huntley is that the region simply does
20 not need more hospital beds at this time, and if there is
21 insufficient need for more beds, why in the world would
22 anyone spend \$233 million without a demonstrated need? Let
23 me share a few key points that will be supported in greater
24 detail by other speakers today.

1 Population and housing growth have declined
2 significantly since the State last estimated bed need. In
3 fact, the McHenry County 2010 US census data, released
4 yesterday, showed that the State overestimated actual
5 population growth by 9 percent. We're still growing, just
6 not as fast as what's predicted. Therefore, there is, in
7 fact, insufficient need for more hospital beds in McHenry
8 County today or in the foreseeable future. As we all know,
9 our return to the strong growth rates of the past is not
10 expected anytime soon.

11 All the hospitals in the area, including
12 Centegra's own hospitals, have unused beds. Several have
13 many unused beds. Regional hospital utilization rates are
14 flat and are expected to drop precipitously as the federal
15 government implements healthcare reform and we all try to
16 reduce unnecessary readmissions and admissions to
17 hospitals.

18 A new hospital will inevitably draw patient
19 volumes away from all of the existing hospitals, weakening
20 them. When we unnecessarily duplicate expensive services,
21 we place at risk our region's traditions of excellence and
22 innovation in patient care. Further, by diluting the
23 existing shrinking volume of hospital activity over more
24 sites, we weaken the healthcare safety net, which is so

1 important to the most vulnerable among us.

2 With our State's budget deficit standing at
3 \$15 billion and our nation's budget deficit expected to hit
4 a record \$1.6 trillion -- that's trillion with a T -- this
5 year, we must remember that governments pay for over half
6 the healthcare in America through Medicare and Medicaid.
7 Ultimately, we, the people and our children, will end up
8 paying for wasteful spending.

9 The proposed hospital is a limited service
10 hospital. This means that patients suffering heart attacks
11 and other serious conditions will need to be transported to
12 the existing full service hospitals, where state-of-the-art
13 care is already available, bypassing the limited service
14 hospital because it will not have angioplasty, heart
15 surgery, and other critical services. Make no mistake,
16 this proposed, limited service hospital will not be able to
17 help many in their critical time of need.

18 Over three-quarters of Centegra-Woodstock's
19 patients come from the communities surrounding the proposed
20 facility. If Centegra builds a new hospital in Huntley,
21 will it close its Woodstock Hospital? If Centegra closes
22 its Woodstock Hospital, what happens to the Woodstock
23 campus? Wouldn't it be more cost effective to renovate
24 Woodstock rather than build a new hospital.

1 Our hospital has the opportunity to serve many
2 residents in this community and certainly McHenry County.
3 We take this responsibility seriously and strive to provide
4 communities with the best possible healthcare services.
5 Our legacy of service is to both Lake and McHenry Counties.
6 We provide healthcare services to these residents and by
7 those residents who today serve as caregivers and
8 physicians. Our staff is a reflection of the patients we
9 serve. Over half of our associates call McHenry County
10 home, and nearly half of the patients we serve are McHenry
11 County residents. We are just as much a McHenry County
12 hospital as we are a Lake County hospital.

13 It would certainly be more exciting to be the
14 Hospital President proposing a new hospital than the one
15 who isn't. But the easier position is not always the
16 correct one. I'm here today because I truly believe that
17 the proposed hospital is inconsistent with our collective
18 mission of stewards of the healthcare system, and I'd like
19 to explain why. The nation has just gone through one of
20 the biggest challenges to the healthcare system in our
21 lifetime. The nation's severe financial constraints will
22 force healthcare providers to do more with less, and no
23 matter which healthcare programs you may have favored,
24 virtually no healthcare reform proposal has argued that the

1 solution to the nation's health problem is to build more
2 suburban hospitals.

3 This proposed new hospital runs counter to
4 where healthcare is going and where it should go. Our
5 healthcare system cannot afford this \$223 million new
6 hospital and should not be built. The healthcare trend is
7 clearly moving towards more outpatient services and
8 reserving in-patient hospitalization for the most complex
9 care. This is not only more convenient for our patients,
10 it is more cost effective.

11 In the first five years, you have seen our
12 hospitals -- in the last five years, you have seen our
13 hospitals establish an immediate care center in Crystal
14 Lake and more importantly for Huntley, over five miles to
15 the east in Algonquin we have our outpatient center. And,
16 as you know, Centegra has established an immediate care
17 center in this area as well. All of these efforts have
18 brought additional healthcare to the communities at a much
19 more reasonable cost.

20 Please don't equate improved care access with
21 building a new hospital. One of the primary duties of the
22 Review Board is to prevent unnecessary duplication of
23 services. Some would say let the hospitals compete and
24 fight it out. There are good reasons why this is unwise,

1 and it's certainly not the argument Centegra made when it
2 strenuously fought to prevent Mercy from building a new
3 hospital in Crystal Lake. In that opposition, Centegra
4 pointed out the considerable harm that a new hospital would
5 do to their hospital and other existing ones, and Centegra
6 was right.

7 A new hospital in the near proximity to other
8 hospitals that are not fully utilized causes considerable
9 harm. Existing hospitals require sufficient volume to
10 cover their fixed costs. Within a given area, there are
11 only so many babies to deliver and so many surgical
12 procedures to perform. A new hospital does not create new
13 demand. It only redistributes and dilutes the volume among
14 existing providers. Without sufficient patients, hospitals
15 do not have the resources available to them to vest for the
16 future, cover the costs of patients who cannot afford care
17 or increase the quality of the services.

18 Let's be clear. This proposed hospital will
19 significantly harm existing service providers and affect
20 the quality of care given. Clinical studies have shown
21 that increased volume relates to increased quality.
22 Patients appropriately respond to the volume and expertise
23 and experience of their team, and we have several
24 physicians today who will explain how volume affects

1 clinical outcomes.

2 In today's economy, I'm very appreciative of
3 the desire for new jobs. Unfortunately, this project does
4 not create new, permanent jobs. I'm sure that proponents
5 for this hospital argue that this project is economic
6 development. However, there are only so many patients
7 requiring in-patient hospital services. Moving patients
8 from one hospital to another does not create jobs; it
9 merely moves them around.

10 I'm sure that some detractors will
11 characterize today's testimony as one hospital simply
12 opposing another; however, this is not the case. Two years
13 ago, Centegra proposed a major renovation of its Woodstock
14 facility, creation of a women's pavilion, and expansion of
15 its OB services at Woodstock. We didn't oppose that
16 project. We recognize that hospitals need to make ongoing
17 improvements to their facilities. If the applicant's
18 motivation was solely concern for McHenry County
19 healthcare, the applicant should not have abandoned that
20 lower cost, right size means for addressing healthcare
21 needs. If Centegra wants to restate its commitment to
22 Woodstock, we again will offer no opposition.

23 I truly believe that none of us charged with
24 being stewards of our healthcare resources, including the

1 Health Facilities and Services Review Board, can conclude
2 that this new project is a responsible use of our
3 healthcare resources.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause)

6 MS. AVERY: Pam Cumpata.

7 (Pause)

8 MS. CUMPATA: Good morning. My name is Pam
9 Cumpata, C-u-m-p-a-t-a. I'm President of the McHenry
10 County Economic Development Corporation, and I thank you
11 for the opportunity to share my thoughts this morning.

12 As the business advocacy group with a mission
13 to promote economic health of McHenry County through
14 retention, expansion, and attraction of commerce and
15 industry, the announcement by Centegra Health Systems to
16 build a new hospital in Huntley will be of great benefit to
17 our economy. The McHenry County Economic Development
18 Corporation Board of Directors is a dedicated group of area
19 business leaders who focus on how to expand economic
20 prosperity in the county. That volunteer board approved a
21 Resolution of Support for Centegra Health Systems' proposed
22 project to develop a new hospital in southern McHenry
23 County. The Resolution is attached.

24 Here in McHenry County we find ourselves in a

1 unique place of witnessing a tremendous population growth.
2 Huntley alone has tripled since 2000. If we want to
3 sustain that growth, we must be prepared to deliver quality
4 jobs. That is why I was so encouraged to hear the proposal
5 of construction and operation of a new hospital in Huntley.
6 The project will deliver 800 jobs during construction and
7 approximately 1,100 permanent jobs during its operation.
8 It is also noteworthy that the new hospital will bring
9 significant economic benefit to the community and increase
10 direct spending throughout the county. In addition, a new
11 hospital in Huntley will undoubtedly spur business
12 development, such as restaurants for employees, ancillary
13 services for the hospital itself, and a myriad of other
14 development opportunities for an ever-growing population.

15 The Centegra hospital in Huntley would serve
16 some of the area's largest and fastest growing communities,
17 including Algonquin, Lake in the Hills, Lakewood, Southern
18 Crystal Lake, and Huntley. Huntley is the right place for
19 a new hospital and this proposal meets the need approval.

20 Thank you.

21 (Applause)

22 MS. AVERY: Susan Milford.

23 (Pause)

24 MS. MILFORD: Good morning. I am Susan

1 Milford, the Senior Vice-President of Strategic Marketing,
2 Planning and Wellness Services for Centegra Health System.
3 I would like to tell you how our proposal to establish
4 Centegra Hospital-Huntley meets the CON Rules regarding bed
5 need and service demand, based on rapid population growth.

6 McHenry County is designated as a single
7 planning area, known as A-10. The Health Facilities and
8 Services Review Board and the Illinois Department of Public
9 Health issued bed-need determinations through 2015. The
10 current monthly, revised bed-need determinations indicates
11 that McHenry County has a need for 83
12 medical/surgical/pediatric beds, 27 obstetric beds, and 8
13 intensive care beds in 2015.

14 The establishment of the obstetric and
15 intensive care categories of service with the number of
16 beds proposed for this project are in accordance with the
17 formula calculation for planning area need that is stated
18 in the CON Rules. McHenry County has a rapidly increasing
19 population, among the highest in Illinois. Because of the
20 rapidly growing population in McHenry County, as well as in
21 the market area that we identified for this hospital, we
22 were able to project the demand for the
23 medical/surgical/pediatric service based upon rapid
24 population growth in the target market area, as specified

1 in the CON Rules. The review criteria permits us to
2 document population growth based upon population
3 projections that may extend as much as 10 years from the
4 date of the CON application which is submitted.

5 The second full year of Centegra
6 Hospital-Huntley will not occur until mid 2018. Although
7 that will be several years later than the most recent
8 adjusted bed-need figures, it was possible to determine
9 calculated adjusted bed need for the
10 medical/surgical/pediatric service for mid-2018, using the
11 State's own methodology that was used to calculate the 2015
12 bed-need figures. We found that the State's bed-need
13 determination will show a need for 104 additional
14 medical/surgical/pediatric beds by mid 2018, due to the
15 rapid population growth experienced in McHenry County.
16 This is 21 medical/surgical/pediatric beds more than shown
17 in the current revised bed-need determinations.

18 Another of the CON Rules specifies that we
19 must project utilization of Centegra Hospital-Huntley by
20 service for each of its first two years of operation.
21 During our second full year of operation, Centegra
22 Hospital-Huntley will have met the occupancy targets
23 specified in CON Rules for the medical/surgical, intensive
24 care, and obstetric categories of service, as well as all

1 State guidelines for utilizations of its ancillary
2 services, such as surgery, emergency department, and
3 imaging modalities.

4 In view of the current and projected bed need
5 in Planning Area A-10 and the target market area for this
6 project, the establishment of Centegra Hospital-Huntley
7 will be in conformance with the Rules of the Health
8 Facilities and Services Review Board and be an asset to our
9 communities for generations to come.

10 Thank you.

11 (Applause)

12 MS. AVERY: Ed Goldberg.

13 (Pause)

14 MR. GOLDBERG: Good morning, Mr. Urso and
15 Ms. Avery, Mayor Sass and Members of the Audience. My name
16 is Edward M. Goldberg, and I'm the President and CEO of St.
17 Alexius Medical Center in Hoffman Estates. I'm here today
18 to voice my opposition, the opposition of St. Alexius
19 Medical Center, and the opposition of Alexian Brothers
20 Health System to Centegra Health System's plan to build a
21 new and, we believe, unneeded hospital in Huntley.

22 The proposed hospital is located thirty
23 minutes on I-90 from St. Alexius Medical Center, in a
24 community that we and other facilities have served for many

1 years. The proposed hospital does not appear to be
2 providing any programs of significance that are not already
3 provided by St. Alexius and other area hospitals and,
4 therefore, Centegra-Huntley will be duplicative.

5 I would like to briefly touch on four issues.
6 First is, the Illinois Health Facilities and Review Board
7 is aware St. Alexius is a primary provider of both Medicaid
8 services and charity care to the less-advantaged residents
9 of the far northwestern suburbs. Last year 19.9 percent of
10 the patients admitted to St. Alexius, one in five, were
11 Medicaid recipients, and nearly three and a half percent
12 were without any medical coverage at all and were provided
13 their care without charge. The provision of care to less
14 fortunate is integral to the Alexian Brothers' mission, and
15 we are proud of that. The reality, however, is that while
16 we take pride in the care that we provide to the
17 financially disadvantaged, we must also provide services to
18 privately insured patients in order to maintain our
19 commitment to the disadvantaged. With the newer housing
20 developments in the Huntley area, we look in that direction
21 for the financial stability we so desperately need.

22 Second, St. Alexius is in the midst of \$117
23 million modernization program that was approved by the
24 Illinois Health Facilities Planning Review Board less than

1 a year ago. That project's justification included our
2 ability to continue to attract patients from the Huntley
3 area.

4 Third, the proposed -- the purpose of the
5 project as discussed in the Attachment 12 to the
6 application is to address the area bed need as identified
7 by IDPH. As the IHFSRB is aware, the bed-need numbers do
8 not tell the entire story. It is not a coincidence or may
9 not be a coincidence that both proposed hospitals projects
10 for McHenry County include 100-bed medical/surgical and 20
11 obstetrical beds. Those numbers are identified in the
12 IHFSRB's Rules as the minimum number of beds to be located
13 in a hospital in a metropolitan statistical area. Those
14 minimums, however, go back to the earliest days of the CON
15 program when six to seven day length of stays were the norm
16 and a 48-hour obstetrics stay was unheard of. Times have
17 changed. More services are provided on an outpatient
18 basis, and in-patient length of stays have been reduced.
19 Medicare and Blue Cross both have programs to reduce
20 re-admissions, which will reduce in-patient services even
21 further. We simply don't need as many in-patient beds as
22 we used to.

23 The IHFSRB routinely reviews and approves
24 projects where hospitals can support a need for additional

1 beds, even though the IHFSRB methodology indicates that no
2 bed need exists. Logic would then suggest that a bed need
3 does not always exist simply because the methodology says
4 one exists.

5 Last, the argument that the hospital will
6 bring a significant number of jobs to the area does not
7 hold water. Short-term construction jobs will, obviously,
8 result, as they do with any construction project, whether
9 it's a hospital, a school, an office building, or a
10 shopping center. But with the construction of a hospital,
11 because there are only a finite number of patients to be
12 treated, patient care jobs will only be shifted from the
13 existing hospitals in the larger northwest suburban
14 community to a new facility. The small net increase after
15 the facility is open will be a result of inefficient and
16 duplicative staffing.

17 In closing, the proposed hospital is
18 unnecessary, will harm the area's existing hospitals and
19 their ability to meet the needs of the broader community.
20 Therefore, I would urge the Illinois Health Facilities and
21 Services Review Board not to approve this project.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause)

24 MS. AVERY: Dan Colby.

1 May I remind those who are providing oral
2 testimony to please spell your name for the Court Reporter.

3 MR. COLBY: Good morning. My name is Dan
4 Colby, C-O-L-B-Y. I live in Harvard, and I represent Mercy
5 Health System. I'm here to register our opposition to this
6 project. I for one -- and I think I speak for thousands in
7 McHenry County -- are concerned about this project being
8 proposed now, even though Centegra does not plan to build
9 this hospital for two years until after its approval. So
10 the question is why even ask for this at this time? If you
11 do not plan to use it for two years, why.

12 This is particularly odd given the need for
13 jobs and the economic development that is needed today, not
14 years from now. This project is further confusing, because
15 instead of building the 20 beds that were approved for the
16 Woodstock Hospital years ago, two years ago, in 2008,
17 Centegra stopped that project, thereby reducing the local
18 economy impact, and now wants to transfer those 20 beds to
19 Huntley, hoping that maybe, some day, the Huntley area will
20 grow enough to support this project.

21 Huntley only has 26,000 people today and
22 probably 30,000 in four years. It doesn't make sense to
23 build -- doesn't it make sense to build where the most
24 people are today, in Crystal Lake.

1 quality medical care.

2 When we analyzed the proposal to invest \$233
3 million in an acute-care hospital on our Huntley campus,
4 the Board responded with overwhelming support. It was
5 clear from the area bed-need data, the travel times to area
6 hospitals and, most importantly, the population growth we
7 have experienced and will continue to experience in
8 southern McHenry County, that a new hospital was not only
9 needed but was necessary.

10 As the Chief Executor office of the American
11 Community Bank and Trust in the county, we designed and
12 built our bank on a strong foundation of a few essential
13 core values that drive all of our business decisions.
14 These values include commitment to understanding and
15 meeting the needs of our customers, delivering the talents
16 of the best people in our industry, working with a sense of
17 urgency, and incorporating trust and integrity in every
18 decision we make. That same approach and philosophy
19 permeates and drives Centegra Health System.

20 Commitment to needs. The proposal for a new
21 hospital in Huntley is a direct response to the needs of
22 our patients and community residents. The State has
23 outlined a bed need for our Service Area, and this plan is
24 designed to meet that need.

1 Having the best people. High quality
2 specialty care is a hallmark of the Centegra System. We
3 are proud to call our medical staff, caregivers,
4 administrative team, and volunteers the very best part of
5 our Centegra family.

6 Recognizing urgency. We are fortunate to see
7 growth and expect to continue to see growth and investment
8 continue in our communities, and we understand the need and
9 the urgency to bringing such much-needed in-patient care
10 close to home for so many area residents.

11 And, finally, trust and integrity. For more
12 than 100 years, Centegra Health System has been a trusted,
13 invested partner in McHenry County. We have supported
14 countless organizations with charitable giving, volunteer
15 time, and expertise. Our numerous free wellness and
16 screening programs have provided valuable healthcare to
17 many patients and families in our area.

18 Centegra has earned the trust and loyalty of
19 tens of thousands of area residents, and our effort to be
20 thoughtful and strategic in meeting future needs is
21 apparent in the proposal we are discussing today. I am
22 proud to be a part of the Centegra team, and my commitment
23 to its success has been reinforced by many heartfelt
24 stories shared by residents and patients since we announced

1 our plans late last year. Centegra is committed to doing
2 our part to meet the needs of these patients, well into the
3 future.

4 Again, thank you for the opportunity to share
5 my enthusiastic support for Centegra Hospital-Huntley.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause)

8 MS. AVERY: Suzanne Hoban.

9 (Pause)

10 MS. HOBAN: Good morning. My name is Suzanne
11 Hoban, H-o-b-a-n. I'm the founder and Executor Director of
12 the Valley Home Partnership Clinic in Woodstock in McHenry.
13 Our clinic's mission is to provide healthcare for the
14 uninsured and underinsured of the area. These are the
15 working poor, the temporary workers, the unemployed, and
16 those who simply cannot afford insurance on their own. We
17 don't receive state or federal dollars for our work. We're
18 dependent on the community to help us provide primary care
19 that is so critical to the health of the area.

20 Because we're not government-funded, nor do we
21 accept Public Aid or Medicare, we must forge partnerships
22 with others in the community to ensure that all have access
23 to primary care. One of our strongest partners has been,
24 and continues to be, Centegra Health System. They've been

1 the leader in demonstrating their commitment to the
2 community.

3 The commitment started at the top when Mike
4 Eesley then COO, came on to the Clinic Board and saw
5 firsthand the pivotal role that we played in the health of
6 the community. As he transitioned into CEO, Mr. Easley and
7 the Board of Centegra looked for other ways to partner with
8 us to better deliver efficient and high quality care. This
9 took many forms, including helping develop a seamless
10 patient flow for the uninsured, who required additional
11 testing and diagnostics which the clinic could not provide.

12 Centegra has also made a strong effort to
13 incorporate the clinic's well-being into the community
14 mission. It has actively worked to recruit physicians and
15 nurses for us. One notable effort involved the recruiting
16 of new physicians to volunteer at the clinic on Centegra's
17 salaried time while they built their practices. This
18 allowed the physicians a different view of the community,
19 helped patients in need, and reinforced Centegra's
20 community mission.

21 We're pleased with Centegra's plan to bring
22 high quality healthcare to the southern portion of McHenry
23 County. This attention to need over profit has been
24 consistently demonstrated by Centegra through their

1 involvement with our clinic, as well as the other many
2 activities that they foster which, are not-for-profit
3 centers but instead address community concerns. This is
4 the true definition of community-centered healthcare, and
5 we're proud to support Centegra in their efforts to deliver
6 that.

7 Thank you.

8 (Applause)

9 MS. AVERY: Terry Dunning.

10 (Pause)

11 MR. DUNNING: Good morning. I am Terry
12 Dunning, T-e-r-r-y, D-u-n-n-i-n-g. I am the Chairman of
13 the Sherman Hospital Board of Directors. I am here to
14 discuss Sherman's opposition to Centegra's proposed
15 hospital in Huntley.

16 Sherman has been an integral part of this
17 region since its founding over a century ago. I personally
18 have been a part of this community for almost my entire
19 life, as a member of the Sherman Hospital Board for over 20
20 years. For me, Sherman has always been a focal point of
21 the Upper Fox Valley, continuing to provide invaluable
22 healthcare services to everyone whenever needed. It served
23 its communities regardless of their ability to pay and
24 regardless of their race or ethnicity.

1 As a leading provider of healthcare to
2 residents of the region, Sherman continually strives to
3 offer innovative healthcare to area residents at both its
4 in-patient and outpatient facilities. We designed a brand
5 new, state-of-the-art facility, new replacement facility,
6 to do so in what was a growing area for many years to come.
7 We are aligning with some of the best academic medical
8 centers in the state, and we have been able to expand our
9 specialized services in stroke care, cancer care, heart and
10 vascular care, pediatric services, and women's health, and
11 we are now planning a center for advanced liver and
12 pancreatic care. The proposed Huntley Hospital is a
13 critical threat to Sherman's ability to continue with these
14 innovations and to set the quality bar higher for the
15 communities we serve.

16 Centegra contends a hospital in Huntley is
17 necessary due to projected growth. As we are the main
18 provider in this service area, we are well aware of the
19 growth dynamic in McHenry County. In choosing our
20 replacement site, we situated our hospital closer to
21 McHenry County, in the middle of our service area, to
22 better serve our patients. The CON Board approved our
23 hospital based in part on projected growth in this area.
24 Since the recession, growth has stagnated, and there are no

1 signs it will return to pre-recession levels in the near
2 future. While we acknowledge the technical bed need
3 assessed for Planning Area A-10, there is an excess of 258
4 med/surg beds in this area. Given this excess and the bed
5 capacity of hospitals within just a few miles of the county
6 line, it would not be prudent for the CON Board to approve
7 a new hospital at this time.

8 Sherman is within 20 minutes of a large
9 proportion of the proposed hospitals primary service area
10 in McHenry and 15 minutes from Sun City-Huntley.
11 Additionally, there is sufficient capacity at Sherman and
12 other existing hospitals in the area to accommodate the
13 projected demand for years to come. In fact, our large
14 site will accommodate other healthcare uses and expansion
15 as warranted.

16 The provider community is facing a negative
17 economic climate and many challenges with healthcare and
18 insurance reform. In this environment, a smaller, more
19 conservative project, like the modernization proposed for
20 Centegra's Woodstock Hospital, which Centegra abandoned
21 last month in favor of this proposal, would seem more
22 appropriate, a much more judicious of financial resources
23 than the establishment of a new hospital, particularly when
24 there is convenient access to hospitals with rooms

1 available to accommodate the healthcare needs of the
2 community.

3 We really appreciate the opportunity to
4 express our opposition to the proposed hospital in Huntley
5 and respectfully request the CON Board to deny Centegra's
6 application for a CON permit for this project.

7 Thank you very much.

8 (Applause)

9 MS. AVERY: Bill McLeod.

10 (Pause)

11 MR. McLEOD: My name is Bill McLeod, M-c,
12 capital L-e-o-d, and I'm the Mayor of the Mayor of the
13 Village of Hoffman Estates. I'm here to testify today
14 because I'm concerned that the construction of a new
15 hospital in Huntley would have a negative effect on the
16 quality and cost of healthcare in our region. Our area is
17 currently served by an outstanding network of regional
18 medical centers. Here in Hoffman Estates, St. Alexius
19 Medical Center has provided quality care to our residents
20 for more than 30 years. Patients come from throughout the
21 west and northwest suburbs to be treated at St. Alexius.
22 The medical center features a full scope of services, and,
23 along with other hospitals in the region, such as Sherman
24 Hospital, and Provena St. Joseph Hospital, St. Alexius is

1 making additional investments to further increase the level
2 of care it provides. Unfortunately, Centegra's proposed
3 hospital would likely make that level of care untenable by
4 drawing away jobs, patients, and other resources St.
5 Alexius needs to operate.

6 Right now there are plenty of open hospital
7 beds in the west and northwest suburbs. Using those beds
8 makes much more sense than constructing a completely new
9 facility. Our current hospitals have the capacity to keep
10 up with any growth in the region and, if needed, could add
11 additional beds at minimal cost.

12 The need for a new hospital is simply not
13 there, and thanks to the recession's effort (sic) on
14 population growth in our region, it likely won't be anytime
15 soon. Because there's not sufficient demand, a new
16 hospital would create an unnecessary duplication of
17 services, resulting in higher costs for everybody.

18 One final point. Centegra says a new hospital
19 would create additional jobs, but those new jobs would only
20 come from established hospitals that already serve the
21 area. A new Centegra Hospital would create needless
22 duplication of services, increase costs, and weaken the
23 outstanding healthcare system in this region. That's why I
24 urge the Board to reject the proposal from Centegra.

1 Thank you.

2 (Applause)

3 MS. AVERY: Harry Leopold.

4 (Pause)

5 MR. LEOPOLD: Good morning. My name is Harry
6 Leopold, L-e-o-p-o-l-d. I'm a Trustee for the Village of
7 Huntley and a resident of Sun City. Can you believe that
8 when we were planning to build this room, we actually had
9 some people that said we will never need anything this.

10 (Laughter)

11 MR. LEOPOLD: I'm proud to support Centegra
12 Health Systems and the proposal to build Centegra
13 Hospital-Huntley. Centegra is the right health system and
14 Huntley is the right location for a new hospital in McHenry
15 County.

16 This hospital will be a great addition to our
17 community. Centegra offers state-of-the-art medical
18 services, varied employment opportunities, total health and
19 well-being education, and a neighborhood partnership of
20 caring. As an example of that partnership, Centegra has
21 maintained an office in our Prairie Lodge facility in Sun
22 City since the first days of it being open in 1999.

23 With our current population of 24,000 people
24 in Huntley, and soon expected to grow to 45,000, we need

1 great medical care close to home. Between 2010 and 2018,
2 Huntley's population is projected to grow by 20 percent,
3 Algonquins population is expected to increase by 17 percent
4 or more, and Lake in the Hills over 16 percent. Our total
5 area population is expected to be over 270,000 people by
6 2018. I believe this merits a hospital.

7 Our building permits for residential housing
8 in 2010 exceeded 2009 by 50 percent. I ask the Illinois
9 Health Facilities and Services Review Board to support the
10 Centegra Hospital and Project 10-090.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause)

13 MS. AVERY: Chris Newkirk.

14 (Pause)

15 MR. NEWKIRK: Thank you. My name is Chris
16 Newkirk, N-e-w-k-i-r-k, and I'm a member of the Centegra
17 Board of Governors. And before I start I would just like
18 to set the record straight on a comment I heard, that
19 somebody has suggested that we are going to close the
20 Woodstock Hospital after this. Let me state emphatically
21 that that has never been our intention, will not be our
22 intention, and we do not intend to close the Woodstock
23 Hospital. So, in case any news reporters need to get that
24 down, make sure you get it down.

1 (Applause)

2 A MR. NEWKIRK: Thank you very much for
3 allowing me to be here today. I'd like to express my
4 support for the Centegra Hospital-Huntley. You're going to
5 hear lots of statistics. I'm not going to give you any.
6 My roots are deep in this county, five generations. I
7 watched my mother and my aunt help start the McHenry
8 Hospital years ago. I watched the Northern Illinois
9 Medical Center become part of our community. I watched the
10 combination of the Woodstock and Memorial Hospital and the
11 Northern Illinois Medical Center become the Centegra Health
12 System, and during those times, I watched this system
13 provide the community such great assets so that the people
14 in the community could stay in the community and receive
15 their healthcare, which to me is paramount and which is
16 what our Board is insisting upon, that we provide our
17 community's healthcare within the community.

18 We started the helicopters to provide
19 transportation for critically ill patients. We have Level
20 II emergency rooms. We have drug and alcohol and behavior
21 centers that are provided, which really are not profitable
22 areas for our institutions, but they're necessary for the
23 community so that those patients can stay within the
24 community. We obviously have a cancer center and a heart

1 center.

2 This application meets all of the Rules, and I
3 am here to ask the Board to please approve the application
4 for the Huntley Hospital.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause)

7 MS. AVERY: Rich Gruber.

8 (Pause)

9 MR. GRUBER: Good morning. My name is Richard
10 Gruber, G-r-u-b-e-r. I am representing Mercy Health System
11 Corporation, as well I'm representing Mercy Crystal Lake
12 Hospital and Medical Center, corporately located at 200
13 Lake Avenue in Woodstock, an Illinois not-for-profit
14 corporation. Thank you again for the opportunity to
15 address the Board.

16 A special thank you to Centegra Health System,
17 because they finally come around to the realization that,
18 in fact, there is a need for new hospital beds in this
19 county. This is a different position, obviously, than what
20 they took several years ago, but I congratulate them on
21 their change of heart.

22 This is a project, frankly, that is in the
23 wrong location and with the wrong timing. The question I
24 ask the Board to consider is why wait to build in Huntley

1 until 2016, hoping that the population is going to grow
2 sufficiently to support the project, when at the same time
3 there is an existing group of more than 160,000 residents
4 in the southeast corner of McHenry County that would
5 immediately benefit from a hospital were it built in
6 Crystal Lake, and that hospital could open as soon as 2014.

7 Frankly, if you're going to build a hospital
8 in McHenry County, why not build it where the need is the
9 greatest? Unlike the Centegra application, Mercy has
10 chosen to locate its hospital and medical center in the
11 most densely populated area of population in McHenry
12 County. It's an area that suffers from excessive traffic
13 congestion. It's also the home of the area's greatest
14 population of those in need of safety net services.
15 Crystal Lake is also the home of the most diverse
16 population in McHenry County and has a growing geriatric
17 population in need of additional services. Huntley on the
18 other hand, is much less diversely ethnically and much more
19 affluent.

20 The location will also provide easier access
21 for emergency service providers who face uncertainty today
22 about hospital bed availability because of Centegra
23 Hospital's record emergency department bypass rates.

24 Frankly, the focus here should be on

1 healthcare and patient care. At the same time jobs and
2 economic development issues are secondary, they are
3 important to the project and what we do within this
4 community. The Mercy project would generate approximately
5 800 construction jobs. Within the first year of opening
6 the Mercy facility, we would be expecting to employ more
7 than 1,000 persons, filling 840 full-time equivalent
8 positions of which approximately 600, we will document, as
9 being new positions to the area.

10 Most importantly, the Mercy project will
11 provide much needed competition that will ensure
12 high-paying, good jobs stay in McHenry County and nurses
13 and other healthcare professionals will receive the respect
14 and the compensation that they deserve.

15 For these reasons, Madam Hearing Officer, I
16 urge you to urge the Board to turn down this Centegra
17 application.

18 Thank you very much.

19 (Applause)

20 MS. AVERY: Dr. Ruffer.

21 (Pause)

22 MR. RUFFER: I'll try to be very short.

23 Thank you. My name is Dr. Jim Ruffer,

24 R-u-f-f-e-r. I'm the Chairman of the Cancer Committee at

1 Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital in Barrington, which is
2 just a short drive from McHenry County. By training, I'm a
3 radiation oncologist, and I've practiced at the Good
4 Shepherd Hospital for over a decade. I stand here to
5 oppose Centegra's application for a brand new hospital,
6 because it will not offer any unique oncology services to
7 the residents of McHenry County and the surrounding locale.

8 I'm proud to say that nearly half of Good
9 shepherd's oncology patients come from McHenry County.
10 These patients choose to come to Good Shepherd not because
11 of lack of cancer services available from Centegra or
12 Sherman systems, but because they recognize the quality of
13 care provided to our local community by Good Shepherd
14 physicians and nurses very close to their homes.

15 In reflection of this excellent quality of
16 care already available to our local community, I'm proud to
17 state that the Good Shepherd Center for Cancer Care once
18 again received approval with commendation following a
19 rigorous evaluation by the American College of Surgeons'
20 Commission on Cancer. Our center not only met the basic
21 standards of the Commission on Cancer approval program but
22 also excelled in seven areas where the commendation was
23 awarded.

24 We offer the latest in radiation therapy

1 MS. STRENG: Good morning. My name is Hadley
2 Streng, S-t-r-e-n-g, and I am the Director of Planning and
3 Business Development for Centegra Health System.

4 I would like to discuss how our proposal to
5 establish Centegra Hospital-Huntley addresses bed need as
6 determined by the Health Facilities and Services Review
7 Board in its CON rules. The Health Facilities and Services
8 Review Board has divided the state of Illinois into a
9 number of Planning Areas. McHenry County is designated as
10 a single planning area, A-10, while the adjoining area of
11 north Kane County is identified as a separate Planning
12 Area, A-11 For each of the Planning Areas, the Health
13 Facilities and Services Review Board has calculated
14 in-patient bed need. The current monthly Revised Bed Need
15 Determinations report indicates that McHenry County has a
16 need for 83 medical/surgical, or med/surg pediatric beds,
17 27 obstetric beds, and 8 intensive care beds.

18 The establishment of obstetric and intensive
19 care categories of service with the number of beds proposed
20 for this project are in accordance with the formula
21 calculation for Planning Area need that is stated in the
22 CON Rules. McHenry County's med/surg pediatric bed need is
23 the highest of any Planning Area in the state of Illinois.
24 Interestingly, the Planning Area with the second highest

1 med/surg pediatric need is north Kane County. The total
2 current med/surg pediatric bed need identified for the
3 McHenry and north Kane County Planning Areas is 144 beds,
4 which is nearly all of the 171 med/surg pediatric beds
5 needed in the entire state of Illinois.

6 The site for Centegra Hospital-Huntley is
7 located in McHenry County but is only two miles from Kane
8 County. In fact, the Huntley zip code, 60142, in which the
9 proposed hospital site is located, includes portions of
10 both McHenry and Kane Counties. Additionally, the market
11 area for our proposed hospital will include portions of
12 both McHenry County and the north Kane County Planning
13 Areas.

14 Upon project approval, we plan to continue
15 design and begin construction within a year. With a plan
16 to open in 2015, Centegra Hospital-Huntley will not
17 complete its second full year of operation until mid 2018.
18 By that time, due to increasing population that is one of
19 the highest in Illinois, the med/surg pediatric bed need
20 for McHenry County will have further increased. Centegra
21 Health System currently operates 343 hospital beds in
22 McHenry County. The new Centegra Hospital-Huntley will add
23 to those beds and does not include closing Centegra
24 Hospital-Woodstock or any of our other facilities. Our

1 intent is to serve the growing community of McHenry County,
2 not replace any services.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to present this
4 information about the significant need for in-patient beds
5 in a rapidly growing area.

6 (Applause)

7 MS. AVERY: Rita Slawek.

8 (Pause)

9 MS. SLAWEK: Hello. I'm Rita Slawek,
10 S-l-a-w-e-k. President and CEO of the Huntley Area Chamber
11 of Commerce. I represent more than 320 business members
12 and their employees, and I support Centegra
13 Hospital-Huntley Project 10-90.

14 Centegra Health System has been the Executive
15 Club Member of our Chamber and has consistently provided
16 the highest level of support to the community and to our
17 Chamber. The Chamber and its members encourage the
18 expansion and retention of area businesses. We also work
19 closely with the Village of Huntley and other community
20 organizations to attract reputable businesses and
21 organizations in the effort to generate employment
22 opportunities and continue the economic growth and
23 development of our community. Our Chamber works hard to
24 promote the area's economic growth and supports our

1 business community members.

2 This Centegra Hospital project makes great
3 business sense. It has been thoroughly planned to meet the
4 healthcare needs of our growing and aging community. Full
5 service hospital services are needed in the southern
6 McHenry County area, and Centegra has the health system
7 best suited to provide these services.

8 With the Sun City-Huntley senior community in
9 excess of over 9,000 residents, the hospital will be a huge
10 benefit to this population. For some of our residents, the
11 distance it currently takes to get to a hospital may be the
12 difference of life and death. I choose life, and I hope
13 you choose to support the life of this project.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause)

16 MS. AVERY: Matt Wakely.

17 MR. WAKELY: My name is Matt Wakely,
18 W-a-k-e-l-y, Vice-President with Alexian Brothers Health
19 System, and I'm here today to read into the record a letter
20 of opposition from State Representative Fred Crespo of the
21 44th District.

22 Hello. My name is Fred Crespo, and I'm the
23 Illinois Representative for the 44th District. My district
24 includes parts of Hoffman Estates, Schaumburg, Streamwood,

1 Hanover Park, Elgin, and Bartlett and is directly affected
2 by Centegra's proposal to build a new hospital in Huntley.
3 After reviewing the issue, I'm here today to express my
4 opposition to the new hospital.

5 Healthcare has always been a major focus for
6 me both professionally and personally. I currently serve
7 on the Alexian Brothers Mental Health Center Board and was
8 the Chairman of the Health and Safety Council during my
9 time as the Hoffman Estates trustee, and my wife is a
10 registered nurse.

11 As a Legislator, it is my duty to look out for
12 the best interests of my Constituents. I can tell you that
13 Centegra's proposed hospital does not benefit the people of
14 the 44th District. The northern Fox Valley region has more
15 than adequate healthcare from hospitals such as St.
16 Alexius, Provena St. Joseph, Sherman and Advocate Good
17 Shepherd. All of these hospitals provide comprehensive
18 range of services to their patients.

19 In contrast, Centegra's proposed hospital is
20 merely a duplication of services and takes away from the
21 current hospitals' ability to offer comprehensive care.
22 Judging from the lack of growth in the far northwest
23 suburbs, it is unlikely additional hospital beds anytime
24 soon. If more hospital beds are needed in the near future,

1 it would be more effective for the existing facilities to
2 expand rather than build an entirely new hospital.

3 I'm also concerned that this duplication of
4 health services will increase the burden on Illinois'
5 budget deficit. Governments pay for more than half of the
6 hospital care in the US. This project is unnecessary and
7 an unnecessary expenditure that will drive up healthcare
8 costs, which means the government -- and more importantly
9 taxpayers -- will end up paying more.

10 I'd also like to address the issue of jobs.
11 It might seem that this project would benefit the area by
12 bringing in a lot of new jobs. Centegra's proposed
13 hospital, though, would create very few healthcare jobs,
14 because there's no need for more hospital beds. That means
15 the multitude of new employees would come from existing
16 hospitals in that area, and they would see fewer patients.

17 I cannot support Centegra's proposed hospital,
18 because it duplicates services, weakens current healthcare
19 providers, and increases costs for everyone. On behalf of
20 the residents of the 44th District, I urge the Board to
21 reject Centegra's proposal to build a new hospital in
22 Huntley.

23 I appreciate your time today, and thank you
24 for your consideration. Thank you. Sincerely, signed Fred

1 Crespo, 44th District State Representative.

2 (Applause)

3 MS. AVERY: I will spell the last name.

4 Dr. Nathan K-a-l-e-i-s-c-h from Mercy.

5 (Pause)

6 MS. AVERY: Nathan?

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The doctor was called away.

8 MS. AVERY: Okay. Tom Nitz.

9 (Pause)

10 MR. NITZ: Good morning. My name is Tom Nitz.

11 I'm a Vice-President at Sherman Hospital. I'm here today
12 on behalf of Sherman Hospital to oppose Centegra's proposal
13 for a hospital in Huntley.

14 I think you'll find my comments interesting,
15 as I'm here to talk about what Centegra has said in recent
16 years about the prospect of new hospitals coming to the
17 area. Centegra opposed a proposal by Mercy Health System
18 to build a new hospital in Crystal Lake when that proposal
19 came forward, and then again in 2007, Centegra opposed a
20 plan by Vista Health System to build a new hospital in
21 Lindenhurst.

22 Many of the core arguments that Centegra
23 presented in opposing those two hospital proposals are the
24 same as the testimony that you are hearing today in

1 opposition to Centegra's current plan to build a hospital
2 in Huntley. The arguments were compelling then, and they
3 remain so today. A new hospital is not needed in the area,
4 given the convenient access to nearby providers that all
5 have ample capacity to serve area residents now and in the
6 future.

7 So what were those arguments? I would like to
8 read from the public record what Michael Eesley, CEO of
9 Centegra, said about Mercy Health System's proposal for a
10 hospital in Crystal Lake, and I quote. "If the proposed
11 hospital were approved, and if they were to become
12 operational, it would result in a loss of admissions and
13 out-patients for Memorial and NIMC, as well as other
14 hospitals in the neighboring communities. As a result, our
15 hospital, as well as others, may fall below the Health
16 Facility's Planning Board's utilization standards and
17 experience decreased profit margins, which might force us
18 to curtail or discontinue vital services that may be free
19 services to our community members", end of the quote.

20 In that same testimony back in 2003 and 2004,
21 Mr. Eesley mentioned that his health system had recently
22 received State approval to expand. He said that
23 modernization and expanding Centegra's two existing
24 hospitals was a better approach than for Mercy to build a

1 new hospital. The service area at issue does, in fact,
2 have the great benefits of the large modernization projects
3 that have been very recently completed by Sherman and St.
4 Joseph's Hospitals at their local facilities.

5 Again, in 2007, Centegra offered public
6 testimony against a new hospital, this time in Lindenhurst.
7 It made very similar and compelling arguments to those you
8 are hearing today. Susan Milford, Vice-President of
9 Strategic Marketing and Planning for Centegra noted at the
10 Vista public hearing that Centegra's McHenry Hospital is
11 just five miles from the Planning Area border -- that's
12 Lake and McHenry County line -- and that Centegra, while
13 located in McHenry, served patients in the same Lake County
14 communities Vista planned to serve in its proposed
15 hospital. She noted -- and I quote -- "The proposed
16 hospital will need to carve out a market in an area already
17 served by existing hospitals." End quote.

18 Yet today, Centegra, which is proposing to
19 carve up this market which is already served by other
20 providers. While a Huntley hospital may seem like a good
21 idea to the residents of Sun City, the truth is those
22 residents live nearly as close to Sherman Hospital as they
23 do to the Huntley site. Also recognize that Huntley is at
24 the far edge of the development in McHenry, out toward the

1 soy and corn fields. Elgin is a better central location to
2 efficiently serve the region.

3 Another argument Mrs. Milford made in 2007 was
4 about the unnecessary expense to build a hospital that
5 wasn't needed. To oppose the Vista Hospital, she said,
6 quote, "Moreover, with construction costs of \$100 million,
7 it can not be credibly argued that this is the most
8 efficient use of already scarce resources", end quote. So,
9 here we are today, just four short years later of what we
10 hope is near the end of a devastating recession, with all
11 levels of government facing record deficits, and Centegra
12 is here proposing to spend \$233 million for an unnecessary
13 hospital at a time of even more scarce resources.

14 We should all have the same concern today. A
15 new, unnecessary hospital could weaken all hospitals in the
16 area, and today, with the economy struggling to recover,
17 the housing market in shambles, and the prospects for
18 population growth in this area far diminished from what
19 they were a few years ago, it seems that Centegra's
20 statements about the lack of need for a new hospital in the
21 area ring even more true today.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause)

24 MS. AVERY: Chuck Ruth.

1 (Pause)

2 MR. RUTH: Hello. I'm Eric Ruth, Chuck's son.
3 Unfortunately, he could not be here today. That's why I'm
4 reading on his behalf.

5 My father is President of Lyons Contractors in
6 Woodstock, a very proud life-long resident of Huntley and
7 he also serves on the Board of Governors for Centegra. So
8 if I may --

9 I'm proud to support Centegra's proposal for
10 Centegra Hospital-Huntley. My family has strong roots in
11 the Huntley community. In fact, my sons and daughter are
12 the fifth generation of our family to call the Village of
13 Huntley home.

14 I can remember the 1950's, when a group of
15 farmers and Huntley businessmen pooled their money to build
16 a small medical building in hopes of luring doctors to
17 town. Now in 2011, a full-service hospital is a feasible
18 reality.

19 I am an ardent supporter of bringing more
20 healthcare to our village. I wish I could be here today to
21 talk further about the current travel times to other
22 facilities and our need for healthcare closer to home.

23 Centegra has been a strong supporter of the
24 Huntley community all along and its most recent proposal

1 shows the health system truly understands our needs. It
2 only seems logical to me that one would support a hospital
3 system that is being welcomed with open arms by a town that
4 is home to the largest senior living community in the
5 state. The Huntley facility would be governed by local
6 community members and managed by an Executive Team that
7 lives in the general area, as well. Those are distinct
8 advantages of this project.

9 I urge the Illinois Health Facilities and
10 Services Review Board to give Centegra Hospital-Huntley a
11 stamp of approval.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause)

14 MS. AVERY: Rowena Wermes.

15 (Pause)

16 MS. WERMES: Hello. Good morning. My name is
17 Rowena Wermes, last name W-e-r-m-e-s. I'm a Project
18 Manager with Centegra Health System. I'd like to discuss
19 several issues that relate to the perceived impact of
20 Centegra Hospital-Huntley upon other hospitals.

21 As you have heard, this project is important
22 because it addresses the historic and projected rapid
23 population growth experienced in McHenry County. This
24 rapid population growth is one of the key reasons why the

1 Health Facilities and Services Review Board's bed-need
2 determination show a need for additional beds in the
3 medical/surgical/pediatric, intensive care and obstetric
4 categories of service. According to population figures and
5 projections from the Illinois Department of Commerce and
6 Economic Opportunity, also known as DCEO, McHenry County
7 has experienced significant recent population growth, and
8 this population growth is expected to continue. These
9 population statistics from DCEO are utilized by the Health
10 Facilities and Planning Board -- Services Review Board and
11 the Illinois Department of Public Health in developing
12 their population projections for determining bed need.
13 DCEO estimated that the population in McHenry County
14 increased by 10 percent from 2005 to 2010 and that it will
15 increase by an additional twelve percent from 2010 to 2015.

16 In projecting bed need and utilization of all
17 services at Centegra Hospital-Huntley, we considered
18 population projections through mid 2018, which is the end
19 of the hospital's first two complete fiscal years of
20 operation. DCEO projects that the population in McHenry
21 County will increase by more than 8 percent from 2015 to
22 2020, which is annual population increase of 1.6 percent,
23 thus increasing the bed-need figures for mid 2018 beyond
24 the figures shown in the bed-need determinations for 2015.

1 I want to provide several reasons why the
2 establishment of Centegra Hospital-Huntley will not impact
3 the current utilization of existing providers. First, the
4 State has identified a bed need, the highest in the state,
5 and this will continue to increase as the population grows.

6 Second, population growth and the aging of the
7 population projected to occur by mid 2018 for both the
8 Planning Area and the identified market area will increase
9 utilization for all of the hospitals in the area currently
10 providing medical/surgical/pediatric, intensive care and OB
11 category of services, as well as provide utilization for
12 the new proposed Centegra Hospital-Huntley.

13 So, in summary, based on the DCEO population
14 growth projections, the aging of the population, the
15 establishment of Centegra Hospital-Huntley will not
16 significantly impact current utilization in existing
17 hospitals.

18 Our CON application also includes a market
19 assessment and impact study, prepared by Deloitte Financial
20 Services. That study includes a discussion of the lack of
21 impact of the establishment of Centegra Hospital-Huntley on
22 current utilization of existing area hospitals, concluding
23 that all existing hospitals within the A-10 Planning Area
24 which have medical/surgical/pediatric, intensive care, or

1 obstetric services will maintain or exceed their existing
2 volume between now and fiscal year '18.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to present this
4 testimony.

5 (Applause)

6 MS. AVERY: Babz Sherfield.

7 (Pause)

8 MS. SHERFIELD: Hi. My name is Babz
9 Sherfield. I'm a resident in Woodstock in McHenry County,
10 and I'm here to oppose Centegra from building a new
11 hospital in Huntley.

12 MS. AVERY: Can you please spell your name for
13 the Court Reporter.

14 MS. SHERFIELD: Oh, I'm sorry.
15 S-h-e-r-f-i-e-l-d.

16 Centegra has a hospital in the cities of
17 McHenry and one in Woodstock, where I already reside. In
18 fact, Centegra had made plans and committed to Woodstock
19 community to build a women's pavilion for Woodstock
20 Hospital. I was surprised to learn that Centegra had just
21 decided to abandon this \$50 million project and is now
22 going to spend that money and more on a new hospital in
23 Huntley.

24 Why has Centegra decided to abandon this

1 important project for Woodstock? This is a much-needed
2 project for our community, and I know that Huntley is more
3 affluent than Woodstock. Is this really a good reason to
4 abandon this needed project.

5 I understand that Centegra needed --
6 demonstrated the need for the women's pavilion in a similar
7 process to which Centegra is pursuing right now at this
8 hearing for the hospital in Huntley and I understand that
9 the Illinois Health Facilities and Service Planning Board
10 agreed with the need for the \$50 million Woodstock pavilion
11 project and awarded Centegra the Certificate of Need for
12 the women's pavilion. A lot of time and effort and money
13 was used to plan for the Woodstock women's pavilion, and my
14 questions are what happened to the need for the women's
15 pavilion in Woodstock? And why should Centegra abandon its
16 commitment to meet that established need for women's health
17 services in Woodstock and be allowed to spend even more
18 money to build a hospital in Huntley.

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause)

21 MS. AVERY: Audrey Reed.

22 (Pause)

23 MS. REED: My name is Audrey Reed, R-e-e-d,
24 and I am a member of the Sherman Hospital Board of

1 Directors.

2 Throughout my career, I have been involved
3 with numerous Elgin-based social service agencies, and I'm
4 familiar with the dynamics, challenges, and advances of the
5 Hispanic community of Elgin, Dundee and Carpentersville. I
6 am concerned that the proposed hospital in Huntley will not
7 only hurt Sherman, but it would also adversely affect
8 access to safety net services to vulnerable populations in
9 the area. It is important to note that the areas with the
10 largest Hispanic populations are not Huntley, Algonquin or
11 Lake of the Hills, those areas from which Centegra's
12 proposed hospital will draw the majority of its patients.
13 Rather, over 40 percent of Elgin's population is Hispanic,
14 and almost half, or 47.3 percent, of the residents of
15 Carpentersville are Hispanic.

16 I am proud of Sherman's strong presence in the
17 Hispanic community and its commitment to closing the gap in
18 healthcare disparities among minority populations. A new
19 hospital in Huntley will negatively affect the great
20 strides Sherman has made in providing vital safety net
21 services to this population. As it currently exists, the
22 U.S. Healthcare system leaves millions without insurance
23 and ranks poorly in health system performance and equal
24 access to healthcare. However, the United States

1 Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority
2 Health has sought to eliminate this disparity by providing
3 access to care and expanding healthcare professionals'
4 linguistic and cultural competence, especially among those
5 working with Limited English Proficient minority
6 communities.

7 I am also proud that Sherman Hospital is years
8 ahead in terms of providing exceptional services of care to
9 Hispanic populations of Elgin and Carpentersville. Because
10 of our large Hispanic patient base, our physicians and
11 staff are continually exposed to and educated on cultural
12 competence and treating the Hispanic population.
13 Additionally, we offer services designed to eliminate
14 health disparities by increasing access to healthcare and
15 addressing the unique needs of the Hispanic population, by
16 understanding, valuing, and incorporating the cultural
17 differences of our subcultures, our clinical staff supports
18 healthcare delivery that responds appropriately to and
19 directly serves the needs of the Hispanic community in our
20 area.

21 In fiscal year 2010, we provided nearly \$3
22 million in charity care and over \$41 million in
23 unreimbursed Medicare and Medicaid care. In addition, we
24 provided over half a million dollars in subsidized health

1 services. Among the safety net services include
2 colonoscopy and other cancer screening, smoke cessation
3 programs, health education classes, breast health services,
4 diabetes clinic, mobile wellness programs, wellness
5 programs for pregnant women and infants, and community
6 vaccine clinics.

7 I hope that the Illinois Health Facilities and
8 Services Review Board understands that the commitment that
9 Sherman has made to the diverse communities it serves will
10 greatly be undermined if Centegra's proposal is approved.
11 I urge you to please reject their proposal.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause)

14 MS. AVERY: At this point in the meeting,
15 we'll take a break until 12:30.

16 (Recess)

17 MS. AVERY: Thank you. We will reconvene.

18 I want to take one person out of order. Jim
19 Saletta, Fire Marshal.

20 MR. SALETTA: Thank you. My name is Jim
21 Saletta, S-a-l-e-t-t-a. I'm Fire Chief for the Huntley
22 Fire Protection District. I'm here to represent the
23 Trustees of the Fire Protection District, as well as the
24 members of the Fire Department.

1 A little background: The Fire Protection
2 District covers 55 square miles and includes a service area
3 that includes all of the Village of Huntley, half of the
4 Village of Lake of the Hills, parts of the Villages of
5 Algonquin, Gilberts, and Hampshire, plus unincorporated
6 areas of Kane and McHenry County. We fully support
7 Centegra's proposal, and I'd like to start by giving you a
8 few statistics, and it's not the numbers that are so
9 important as a raw number but as a trend.

10 Since 2004, we've seen a 68 percent increase
11 in our call volume. We've gone from 2,100 calls in '01 for
12 service to 3,546 last year. 75 percent of our calls are
13 EMS calls. Last year we saw 2,932 patients. That includes
14 multiple patients on one call, as in a vehicular accident.
15 Of those patients, of those 2,932, 50 percent were Advance
16 Life Support, meaning they had injuries or illnesses that
17 were serious, possibly life threatening, including
18 myocardial infarctions, heart attacks, cerebral vascular
19 accidents, strokes, and other types of trauma. That trend
20 has continued not only since 2004 but since I arrived here
21 in 2001. It's a steady increase, and that increase has
22 occurred even though the housing market has dropped and
23 even though we've had an economic situation that hasn't
24 been conducive to growth.

1 Added to that and exacerbating the situation
2 is we have a senior community of 8,000-plus people. I
3 would be eligible to live there, and I understand what it's
4 like to grow older and have your medical needs become
5 increasingly of more concern. In 2004, Del Webb Community
6 accounted for 21 and a half percent of our calls. Today
7 they account for 36 and a half percent. Again, that trend
8 is ever increasing. So, there's increasing call for
9 service, increasing call for service in a higher risk
10 population.

11 The problem for emergency services is response
12 time. Now, I see the crowd has thinned out a little bit,
13 but had my Fire Marshal been here earlier this morning and
14 looked at the occupancy load of 250 and the amount of
15 people here, he would have had shortness of breath and
16 chest pain, which would have prompted me to call 911, and
17 I'm here with Lieutenant Bill Creasal (phonetic), my EMS
18 Coordinator. He would have attended to the Fire Marshal.
19 The reason I call 911, that's what Chiefs do. They use a
20 radio, they point, and they do paperwork. But bill would
21 have been doing the treatment.

22 But let me extend that scenario a little bit
23 to explain to you the importance of response time and
24 travel time. I would have made a call to 911. It would

1 have got processed to a dispatch center and would have
2 probably taken two minutes for that call to get processed.
3 The call would have come into the station; the ambulance
4 crew would have gotten to the ambulance, which would have
5 taken another minute or two; and they would have traveled
6 here. Now, it's a fairly short distance from one of our
7 stations here, probably only a two-minute drive, but most
8 likely five or six minutes would have elapsed. Once they
9 got here, they would assess the patient, call the hospital,
10 and do some treatment; another twenty or 25 minutes would
11 have lapsed. And then they would have to travel to the
12 nearest hospital. The average time for us to the nearest
13 hospital is 20 minutes. So now we're talking about 45 or
14 50 minutes of total time from the time that the Fire
15 Marshal had his chest pain until he got his treatment.

16 Now, in a heart attack situation, time is
17 heart muscle, and the sooner you can get definitive
18 treatment, the better. And placing a location of a
19 hospital in your home community greatly enhances the
20 possibility of getting that definitive treatment earlier.
21 And the same could be said for stroke, and the same could
22 be said for a trauma. In emergency medicine, the quicker
23 the response, the better the outcome. Paramedics can
24 stabilize a patient, but they cannot give definitive

1 treatment. We need to get them where they can get that.

2 So, in closing, local hospitals provide
3 earlier medical intervention for EMS and enable quicker
4 ability for ambulances to go back in service. That's one
5 other item I should add, also. When an ambulance goes to a
6 hospital twenty minutes away, they have to file a report,
7 they have to get their equipment, they have to clean the
8 ambulance, disinfect it, get it back in service. It's out
9 of the community for an hour, at least. Now, we usually
10 run three ambulances, so we have a enough to handle the
11 volume of calls here, but 13 times last year we didn't. We
12 had to call for help from another community. Now,
13 fortunately, our fire engines and ladder truck have
14 paramedics on them, but they can't transport. So, they had
15 to respond to those calls and call for an ambulance from
16 another community, which was another delay in treatment
17 prior to even going to the hospital.

18 So, we fully support having a hospital in our
19 community. We believe it's going to save lives. We think
20 it's going to be important to the community.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause)

23 MS. AVERY: Eileen Breitzke.

24 (Pause)

1 MS. BREITZKE: Good afternoon. Eileen

2 Breitzke, B-r-e-i-t-z-k-e.

3 I have seen the plans for where Centegra wants
4 to build their new hospital, and for all intent and
5 purposes, it is in my back yard, and I am very pleased by
6 this. Centegra takes care of the community, and I am so
7 happy they want to bring more services to this area.

8 When my first husband passed away, my old
9 college friend, Bill, helped me to navigate through all of
10 the paperwork and he helped me to move forward. We
11 reconnected, fell in love and were married, a true love
12 story. A few months after we were married, Bill was
13 diagnosed with brain cancer. He was treated at the
14 Centegra Sage Cancer Center in McHenry with radiation and
15 chemotherapy. The people at Centegra took such great care
16 of Bill. They were all very personable, sharing stories
17 and smiles. While this was a devastating time for us, the
18 care and concern shown by all members of the cancer center
19 helped ease our pain.

20 We were also greatly relieved to find that
21 Centegra had vans that could take Bill to his daily
22 appointment at the hospital. It would have been
23 overwhelming to try to make all of his appointments while
24 the world collapsed around us. It was with such relief not

1 to have to make that 45-minute drive in the dead of winter.
2 Centegra provided much needed transportation during this
3 very difficult time.

4 Since Centegra took care of us during that
5 time, Bill wanted to show how thankful he was. He saw that
6 there are so many other people going through this grief and
7 heartache. We wanted to help them, and we knew Centegra
8 would assist us in doing just that. We donated the funds
9 necessary to purchase a new patient express van, and Bill
10 would be so proud and even overwhelmed to see the van he
11 provided helping those in crisis. Actually, it's parked
12 outside today, for those who want to see it. We also
13 donated the funds to provide massage therapy for other
14 cancer patients, so that they could be just a little more
15 comfortable.

16 Centegra is a wonderful organization that
17 works very hard to provide the best care possible to its
18 patients, and as a patient of Centegra, I have experienced
19 their passion firsthand. I would be so happy to see this
20 project become a reality. I live near the location for the
21 new hospital, and I am relieved to know that the services I
22 might need are so much closer.

23 The families in this community are of all
24 ages, and as a parent and a grandparent, I know how

1 important it is to have a hospital close by. This project
2 is what the region needs, and Centegra is the organization
3 to do it.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause)

6 MS. AVERY: Dr. Solomon Secemsky.

7 (Pause)

8 MR. SECEMSKY: My name is Dr. Solomon
9 Secemsky, S-e-c-e-m-s-k-y. I am a cardiologist at Sherman
10 Hospital in Elgin. I also am a member of the Sherman
11 Health Board of Directors. I am here today to express my
12 opposition to the proposed Centegra Hospital in Huntley.

13 As a doctor at a nearby hospital, I can
14 truthfully say that adding another hospital to the area is
15 not only a waste of funds, it is simply irresponsible.
16 Centegra's proposal calls for a small, limited-service
17 hospital, one that does not offer the same range of
18 services as the established providers in the community,
19 such as Sherman Hospital and Provena St. Joseph Hospital.

20 I have been a practicing cardiologist the past
21 thirty years. Cardiology is a field of medicine that
22 necessitates urgent and specialized care. Limited-service
23 hospitals, such as the one proposed, cannot even offer
24 patients a basic angioplasty, one of the most common

1 cardiac procedures. In this case, Centegra proposes to
2 build a hospital at the west periphery of the more
3 populated area of McHenry County. This would draw heart
4 patients further away from the critical care that they
5 would need if experiencing a heart attack or other acute
6 coronary incident requiring immediate intervention. If
7 patients with immediate coronary needs seek out treatment
8 at Centegra's proposed hospital, their emergency care will
9 be delayed, as they will undoubtedly have to be transferred
10 for definitive treatment to a nearby hospital that can
11 handle cardiac procedures. In fact, ambulances with
12 emergency medical service personnel trained to triage
13 patients will bypass this type of hospital when they are
14 treating an acute coronary problem in favor of a facility
15 such as Sherman Hospital. Time is not something that heart
16 patients have to waste, and delay in treatment could mean
17 life or death. As we know, when a patient is having a
18 heart attack, time is muscle. The more time wasted before
19 getting treated, the more heart muscle is destroyed, which
20 is why emergency departments have protocols with strict
21 time limits to follow for patients who come in complaining
22 of chest pain.

23 As a cardiologist, I feel strongly that
24 Centegra is not looking out for the patient's best

1 interests, because they're trying to draw patients away
2 from the nearby established and capable hospitals that
3 offer high quality critical care. Sherman Hospital is
4 staffed with nearly 50 cardiologists and cardiovascular
5 surgeons, and we pride ourselves in offering the best
6 cardiovascular care to our patients, including McHenry
7 County residents, most of whom are nearly as close to an
8 existing hospital as they are to Huntley.

9 As a physician, I urge you to think about what
10 is best for the health and well-being of the area
11 residents, and reject Centegra's proposal to build a
12 hospital in Huntley.

13 Thank you.

14 (Applause)

15 MS. AVERY: Scott Powder.

16 (Pause)

17 MR. POWDER: Thank you, Miss Avery and
18 Mr. Urso, for allowing me to jump in, and also thanks to
19 Mary for letting me jump in.

20 I am Scott Powder. I'm the Senior
21 Vice-President of Strategic Planning for Advocate
22 Healthcare. Advocate is Illinois' largest healthcare
23 system. We've been named one of the top ten health systems
24 in the United States for quality by Thomson-Reuters.

1 I would like to take one quick minute to
2 deviate what I was going to say to comment on a couple of
3 things that were just said several speakers ago. With all
4 due respect to the Fire Chief, who described a scenario
5 where the Fire Marshal was basically having a heart attack
6 and he described the fact that it would be about a
7 50-minute journey between the heart attack to the actual
8 hospital, I would like to tell him that that, in fact,
9 would be one of the best performances in the entire
10 country, to get to a -- one of the existing nearby
11 hospitals within 50 minutes. The average in the state is
12 well over 60 minutes, many hospitals well over 90 minutes,
13 reinforcing the point that the area hospitals can, in fact,
14 provide the care necessary.

15 The other thing I would say is if he did, in
16 fact, transport that patient to the proposed hospital that
17 we're discussing today, as our cardiologist from Sherman
18 spoke, he would not actually be able to get the treatment
19 that he needs and would end up getting transferred anyway.
20 So, putting this hospital in place is actually not going to
21 help our Fire Marshal. It's going to hinder our Fire
22 Marshal.

23 With that said, Advocate strongly opposes this
24 project. We think it's a duplication of services. We

1 think it adds unnecessary health costs to the communities
2 in this region. At the heart of this issue is that every
3 community hospital is an investment of community resources,
4 time, talent and money. The communities that we serve
5 invest their trust in us as not-for-profit institutions.
6 For that reason, we must be good stewards of our limited
7 resources.

8 Those that work in healthcare every day know
9 that we are moving away from a hospital-based, acute care
10 system and model to one that is much more cost effective.
11 We see it today in the growth and outpatient procedures and
12 the expansion capabilities aimed at shortening the
13 in-patient stay or eliminating hospital stays all together.
14 Surgical services is an example of this trend. We've seen
15 an explosion in the number of surgery centers over the last
16 10, 12 years, whereas we have not seen a significant growth
17 in hospitals across the country.

18 The growth of outpatient surgery centers is
19 one example that's due to the ability to have advanced
20 technology to make it possible to have surgery in a less
21 invasive way, speeding recovery times, lowering the risk of
22 infection, and much less costly. That's something everyone
23 can support, and, in fact, the applicants themselves are
24 partners in ambulatory surgery centers in this same

1 geographical area.

2 In our experience as the largest provider of
3 healthcare in the state, we have found the most cost
4 effective way to serve the growing needs of the community
5 is to reconfigure or expand existing hospital campuses,
6 rather than investing in new. This allows us to spread the
7 very high, fixed cost of running a hospital over a greater
8 patient base. This lowers cost per patient served overall,
9 and in combination with a community-based ambulatory
10 service model, providers can create an acute care hub
11 without patient services acting as spokes that reach into
12 the communities with the greatest need. This is the
13 Advocate Healthcare approach in this region.

14 Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital serves as our
15 hub, and we have outpatient spokes in Lake Zurich,
16 Wauconda, Crystal Lake and Algonquin, and others
17 contemplated. The lessons we've learned over the course of
18 the past decade can be instructive to other providers with
19 similar missions as ours. For example, in 2007, as members
20 of the Board know, we recognized that the population growth
21 in Lake County was outstripping the availability of
22 healthcare services. Conventional wisdom at the time led
23 us to initially propose the construction of a brand new
24 hospital, new location in Round Lake. It was about the

1 same cost as the project being discussed today. In the
2 end, our strategic analysis concluded it would be far
3 better use of resources and better for the community if we
4 invested them in an existing provider, then Condell Medical
5 Center. By bringing Condell and Advocate together, and
6 through that merger, and making investments in an existing
7 provider, we're now able to provide the first Level I
8 trauma center in Lake County, an expanded emergency
9 department, a new inpatient expansion that's set to open
10 April 7th, and a number of outpatient services that are
11 being planned as we speak.

12 The applicant's proposal clearly does not
13 represent the industry's strategic best practices. It's a
14 quarter billion dollars of bricks and mortar. It's a price
15 tag that isn't part of the solution to help today's
16 healthcare solutions but part of the problem.

17 We respectfully oppose this new community
18 hospital and construction project because of the cost it
19 represents to the communities it's actually seeking to
20 serve, and we think there exists today better solutions for
21 our industry that demonstrate a better, more cost-effective
22 way rather than saturating the geography with additional
23 acute-care hospitals. Thank you.

24 (Applause)

1 MS. AVERY: Bob Plager (phonetic).

2 (Pause)

3 MR. PLAGER (phonetic): Good afternoon. I'm
4 not one of the many experts on healthcare that you've
5 heard. I'm one of the recipients. Reasonably good
6 physical condition, an 84-year-old who is more and more
7 aware of what good healthcare means, and I'm going to tell
8 you today a little bit about me and our situation, my wife
9 and I.

10 I'm writing this support for the proposed
11 Centegra Hospital in Huntley, Illinois. My wife and I have
12 lived in Crystal Lake since 1962. At that time, both
13 Huntley and Crystal Lake had dramatically smaller
14 populations than they have now in 2011. I spent 36 years
15 in education, and I retired as Superintendent of Schools in
16 District 47 in Crystal Lake. Then I had the opportunity to
17 work as CEO for 17 years at the Crystal Lake Chamber of
18 Commerce.

19 I have seen Centegra take responsibility for
20 the county's healthcare needs. Quality healthcare close to
21 home is important to me, but I also appreciate Centegra's
22 health efforts to provide preventive care for all of us.
23 In fact, after I leave here, I'm going to stop in Huntley
24 and go to the Health Bridge Fitness Center, where I usually

1 spend an hour a day, six days a week, trying to keep in
2 good shape, if possible.

3 My wife and I have both been patients in 2010
4 at Centegra's Hospital. We can attest to the quality of
5 care that we've received. We've also been active in the
6 prevention and fitness programs offered by Centegra. We
7 feel that this endorsement represents thousands of citizens
8 in my senior age group who will benefit from the
9 construction of the Centegra-Huntley facility.

10 In addressing an audience last week, I said if
11 you think healthcare is expensive, it's even more expensive
12 when it's inconvenient. This project will solve that
13 problem.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause)

16 MS. AVERY: John Perkins.

17 (Pause)

18 MR. KLUNK: My name is Deputy Chief Mike
19 Klunk. I'm here on behalf of Chief John Perkins, who is
20 unable to be here this afternoon.

21 As Chief of the Huntley Police Department, I
22 was very excited to see the proposal for a full-service
23 hospital in our village. In my opinion, northern Kane
24 County and southern McHenry County are in urgent need of a

1 hospital. Presently local residents must travel to either
2 Elgin or Woodstock to find a full-service hospital.
3 Similar to the Joint Commission accreditation that
4 hospitals must receive, the Huntley Police Department is a
5 nationally-accredited organization. Our agency met the
6 required standards and was awarded full accreditation
7 through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement
8 Agencies, CALEA, in 2010. Huntley is one of only two
9 agencies in McHenry County and three from Kane County that
10 are accredited.

11 We accept our obligation to continue our quest
12 for professional excellence, but one area that is lacking
13 is partnership with a local hospital. With no local
14 facility, crime victims and traffic crash victims must be
15 transported out of town for trauma treatment. As a result,
16 police officers must travel to conduct follow-up
17 investigation work. The extra down time often leaves the
18 Department short on street officers.

19 A local hospital will improve the quality of
20 service we can provide in many ways. Children that are
21 physically or sexually abused can meet with advocates and
22 begin their forensic interview sooner and closer to home.
23 Individuals that are being held in our jail can be treated
24 less than a mile away, thus greatly reducing the

1 opportunity for incidents of escape. Blood draws for fatal
2 crashes or DUI arrests can be completed in a timely manner
3 without lengthy drives. Domestic abuse victims can receive
4 treatment and return home sooner to safe lives and upset
5 households. Finally, when our officers are injured,
6 medical help is close.

7 Centegra Health Systems is a highly-respected
8 organization. I look forward to partnering with them in
9 the future to approve the overall community of life in the
10 community.

11 Signed, John R. Perkins, Chief of Police.

12 (Applause)

13 MS. AVERY: Marcy Traxler.

14 (Pause)

15 MS. TRAXLER: Hi. I'm Marcy Traxler, and I
16 serve as the Director of Pediatric Service at St. Alexius
17 Medical Center in Hoffman Estates. St. Alexius has a
18 special interest in the care of children, one of the most
19 vulnerable populations in our region. I'm here to oppose
20 Centegra's hospital plans, because if the project is
21 approved, it would imperil the work we do at St. Alexius.

22 This spring, the Alexian Brothers Health
23 Network is poised to break ground on a \$117 million project
24 to add a children's hospital to our Hoffman Estates

1 campus. This will be our regional center, providing care
2 from pediatric and obstetric specialists.

3 As more children are being diagnosed with
4 chronic diseases, including asthma and diabetes, our
5 network has responded by bringing coordinated care for
6 these patients together under one roof. Likewise, the rate
7 of premature births has increased, and these children
8 require highly-specialized intensive care services, known
9 as Level III neonatal intensive care or NICU. Level III is
10 the highest level of care as designated by the State of
11 Illinois. It is designed to care for the smallest, sickest
12 babies and is staffed 24/7 with highly-trained pediatric
13 subspecialists known as neonatologists and
14 specially-trained nurses.

15 Less than a year ago, the Health Facilities
16 Planning Board approved this Expansion based on extensive
17 population and needs assessments. If the Board approves a
18 community hospital in southern McHenry County, that
19 hospital will draw patients away from St. Alexius. It
20 would make it much more difficult for us to serve this
21 growing need for local specialists for children and their
22 mothers.

23 The non-profit Alexian Brothers Hospital
24 Network is committed to providing care to all residents,

1 whether they have insurance coverage or not. We have seen
2 a surge in children who are uninsured or receiving care
3 through Medicaid. Nearly 60 percent of pediatric patients
4 seeking specialist care through Alexian Brothers Health
5 Network are on Medicaid. The addition of a Centegra
6 facility focusing on patients with private insurance would
7 certainly undermine Alexian Brothers' mission to serve the
8 most needy among us.

9 I strongly urge the board to support the
10 strength of the excellent healthcare networks that already
11 serve our region, and reject Centegra's proposal.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause)

14 MS. AVERY: Dr. Nathan Kakish.

15 (Pause)

16 MR. KAKISH: It's K-a-k-i-s-h. I don't have a
17 statement, but I'm going to try to do this on memory.

18 I'm a community physician. I'm an internist
19 and pediatrician. I've been out here for four years.

20 And I'm here in response to a lot of what's
21 been going on. But for the four years I've been here, I've
22 been trying to keep myself out of politics. However in the
23 last couple months, it did get a little bit more personal
24 to the point where it starts to kind of affect our standing

1 or ethical, moral standing in the community.

2 I just want to submit copies of a letter
3 circulated to local physicians, hospital staff, and
4 probably some community members. Under that headline under
5 "Community" where it mentions Mercy physicians, rehashing
6 the previous CON that had been applied for, mentioning the
7 bribe, the scandal that accompanied, and actually
8 highlighting the fact that we supported a hospital and
9 expanded healthcare for the community, and using that
10 against us, because we thought that the more healthcare was
11 needed in the area. As you can also see, there's a list of
12 about 30 physicians who were particularly listed there to
13 kind of, I guess, impose a will or show a little bit of
14 intimidation towards us, being that we are not necessarily
15 aligned with the Centegra ideal.

16 Too, I have a good colleague who has been here
17 with me for three years, a Board-certified family physician
18 who has grown a good practice, works with me. However, he
19 has been denied twice privileges at the Centegra Hospital
20 for really unclear reasons, and the only thing we can find
21 is because he is aligned with a competitor local health
22 system.

23 For the above two reasons, I don't find that
24 having more of Centegra in the community would be the right

1 thing for me or for this area. I am a McHenry County
2 resident in Crystal Lake. I am also a McHenry County
3 healthcare consumer, and I do not find that having more
4 monopolies in our healthcare would be helpful for us.

5 And then just a little post-script. If there
6 is a way -- I don't know if you can -- tabulate the number
7 of physicians who get up here and pretty much commit career
8 suicide by getting up here and doing what I just did. I
9 don't know if you've been able to keep track of how many
10 doctors have come up here and said no to what this project
11 is.

12 And that's all I have to say.

13 (Applause)

14 MS. AVERY: Tina Hill.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'd like to defer to Melvin
16 Long at this time.

17 MR. LONG: Thanks for the accommodation. I
18 appreciate it.

19 My name is Mel Long, L-o-n-g, and I'm going to
20 speak to you today very briefly as a concerned citizen and
21 a patient of the Centegra Health System and a consumer.

22 My wife and I have been residents of Sun
23 City-Huntley for more than six years. We moved from the
24 city of McHenry, where we had lived for 13 years, and we

1 most definitely support Centegra's plans to build a new
2 hospital and medical offices in Huntley, which adjoin now
3 their already active and Intermediate Care Center -- which
4 we have visited frequently -- medical offices, and the
5 Health Bridge Fitness Center. We have been patients that
6 volunteer within Centegra Health System for 20 years and
7 are most grateful for the high quality care and services
8 received over the years.

9 Now, expansion of the site on Haligus Road is
10 a perfect fit, I think, at a desirable location, serving a
11 growing Huntley community and environment, which we've
12 heard about so much in the testimony this morning and this
13 afternoon. Consider the nearby, rezoned land parcels in
14 Huntley and contiguous towns for residential and commercial
15 development, all ready to kick off again as the economy
16 improves. Also consider nearby infrastructure
17 improvements, such as the widening of Illinois Route 47 and
18 complete interchange at Route 47 and Interstate 90. The
19 Route 47 corridor north of Interstate 90 continues to
20 develop as the population expands. Furthermore,
21 revitalization of the downtown Huntley area and new Metra
22 service rail station, likely at Coyne Station Road,
23 receives the support of an involved community.

24 We have observed very positive and proactive

1 MR. KLOOSTERMAN: Good afternoon. My name is
2 Kevin Kloosterman, K-l-o-o-s-t-e-r-m-a-n, reading for and
3 on behalf of Tina Hill.

4 My name is Tina Hill and I am a McHenry County
5 Board Member from District 5, which encompasses the
6 proposed location of the new Centegra Hospital in Huntley.
7 I support Project No. 10-090 and Centegra Health Systems'
8 proposal to bring a new hospital to southern McHenry
9 County. The economic impact will be immediate and
10 widespread with 400 construction jobs and 140 full and
11 part-time positions.

12 Even in these economic times, Huntley is still
13 one of the fastest growing communities in the county and in
14 the whole state of Illinois. These communities in southern
15 and southeast McHenry County are greatly medically under
16 served, letting to increased travel times for healthcare
17 needs. The McHenry County Board last night approved a
18 Resolution supporting this endeavor, which I also voted yes
19 with my colleagues.

20 Economic development has been a high priority
21 at the County Board, and this is a perfect fit for the
22 needs of our constituents. I urge the Illinois Health
23 Facilities Planning and Review Board to approve Centegra
24 Hospital-Huntley Project No. 10-090.

1 Thank you.

2 (Applause)

3 MS. AVERY: Jean Dawson.

4 (Pause)

5 MS. DAWSON: Good afternoon. I'm Jean Dawson,
6 and I'm the Barrington Township Supervisor, and I thank you
7 for the opportunity to allow me to speak on why I am in
8 opposition to the hospital project that Centegra has
9 planned for Huntley. I'd like to point out two main
10 reasons why I think Centegra's plan is not a good idea.

11 The first reason is proximity. There are many
12 healthcare providers very close to this proposed hospital.
13 For example, Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital is located
14 less than a mile from the McHenry County line, so it,
15 obviously, serves many people in McHenry. In fact, many of
16 the County's residents are closer to Good Shepherd than
17 they are the proposed Centegra Hospital.

18 Good Shepherd isn't the only regional medical
19 center that serves southern McHenry County. Residents also
20 can choose between Sherman Hospital, St. Alexius, Provena
21 St. Joseph, all of which provide comprehensive care far
22 beyond what Centegra proposes to offer at this basic
23 hospital.

24 The second reason why investing in a new

1 hospital does not make sense for this area is health costs.
2 The proposed Centegra Hospital is an example of needless
3 expense that would further exacerbate the budget problems
4 that our federal and state governments face. Hospital
5 systems depend on large amounts of government and taxpayer
6 money, paid through public insurance. They should be wise
7 stewards of these government funds and not propose
8 healthcare facilities in the area that are already well
9 served.

10 For those reasons and more, I oppose this
11 project and ask that the Board deny Centegra's request for
12 a Certificate of Need.

13 Thank you.

14 (Applause)

15 MS. AVERY: Ed Schock.

16 MS. FRIEDMAN (phonetic): I'm Kara Friedman
17 (phonetic). Mayor Schock was not able to be here today, so
18 I'm tendering his testimony. In interest of time, I'm not
19 going to read it. However, it speaks to the accessibility
20 of hospitals in the region.

21 (Pause)

22 MR. WARD: Hello. I'm Dr. Andrew Ward,
23 W-a-r-d. I'm the Chief of Anesthesia and the Director of
24 the Algonquin Road Surgery Center in Lake of the Hills.

1 I'm here today to urge the Illinois Health Facilities and
2 Services Review Board to reject Centegra's Certificate of
3 Need application for a hospital in Huntley. In fact, many
4 of the arguments you will hear or have heard today in
5 opposition to Centegra's proposal are the very same
6 arguments Centegra used in 2004 and 2007 to oppose similar
7 projects in the area. However, times have changed.

8 The unnecessary duplication of operating rooms
9 that Centegra proposes is my first objection to this
10 Centegra proposal. The Algonquin Road Surgery Center has
11 provided surgical services since 2002 as a joint venture
12 between Centegra Health System, Sherman Hospital, and the
13 surgeons who use the ASC as an extension of their medical
14 practice. I think that bears repeating, that I'm a
15 Director of the Surgery Center that Centegra is an owner
16 of. I, however, am probably the only one of the Centegra
17 affiliated people who is not wearing a green sticker.
18 We'll see if I have a job tomorrow.

19 Our facility is licensed for three operating
20 rooms and one procedure room. After eight years of
21 operations, we have never reached capacity and are still
22 dramatically underutilized. In 2010, we served 2,644
23 patients. Each of the four rooms has the capacity for
24 about 1,800 cases. Doing the math, the result is that

1 we're at about one-third capacity.

2 The proposed Centegra Hospital includes eight
3 operating rooms. It strikes me as curious that this is
4 considered a need when our operation, of which Centegra is
5 a partner, cannot sustain four suites. While we are the
6 only multi-specialty surgical center in the area, the area
7 hospitals also have similar capacity to do more surgical
8 cases.

9 My second objection is to the wasted
10 healthcare dollars. A significant capital outlay going
11 towards the new facility should be invested in improving
12 the quality and functionality of the existing campus.
13 During this time of economic struggle, covering more lives
14 through increased community outreach, improving
15 efficiencies and technology, seem a better use of these
16 funds. This proposal does none of these things and
17 severely impairs the ability of the existing providers to
18 work towards these goals.

19 Centegra's hospital would also continue to
20 cost the community. No matter how many patients each
21 facility -- visit the facility, equipment must be
22 maintained and upgraded, the building needs to be kept up,
23 everyone needs to pay the large staff of nurses and other
24 clinicians, maintenance and security personnel, managers

1 and executives. Adding another facility like a hospital in
2 the area will not improve the health delivery to patients.

3 I recently had the opportunity to visit our
4 Congressmen and Senators in Washington, DC to discuss
5 healthcare issues. It is largely agreed that superfluous
6 and reckless spending is at odds with decreasing the
7 healthcare costs and bringing the sustainable growth rate
8 under control. Rising healthcare costs are threatening our
9 nation financial's health. The politicians and the
10 stakeholders at the national level are in a political
11 debate, which focuses on healthcare budget with sustainable
12 growth, but the truth is the government is spending -- what
13 the government is spending on healthcare is unsustainable.

14 This CON Board cannot approve new hospitals
15 that duplicate the capacity of our existing providers. It
16 will put the bankruptcy of the Medicare Trust Fund on a
17 fast track. We need a tighter, more efficient healthcare
18 system to survive in this new financial reality. We
19 already have six hospitals in the region who can serve our
20 patients to 2016 and beyond.

21 Medical advances, like robotic surgery, have
22 and will continue to decrease the length of stay and move
23 more procedures to the outpatient setting. By the time
24 Centegra's hospital would open, demand for beds will be

1 even lower because of these medical advancements and
2 changes required by the federal healthcare reform. The
3 lack of demand for operations at our topnotch facility is a
4 strong illustration that we need to take a breath and be
5 thoughtful about how we deliver quality care to the
6 patients. Duplicating resources does not promote better
7 healthcare. It means higher costs for everyone.

8 I ask the Illinois Facilities and Services
9 Board to reject the CON Permit Application for Centegra
10 Health System to build a hospital in Huntley.

11 Thank you much for your time.

12 (Applause).

13 MS. AVERY: Dr. Marietta Abraham.

14 (Pause)

15 MS. ABRAHAM: Spelling is Marietta,
16 M-a-r-i-e-t-t-a, A-b-r-a-h-a-m.

17 My name is Dr. Marietta Abraham, and as the
18 Director of the Centegra Immediate Care, it is an honor to
19 stand before you today to give testimony in favor of the
20 Centegra Hospital-Huntley campus, Project No. 10-090.

21 It is clear from my work each day in Huntley
22 that a new hospital is needed to provide advanced care and
23 treatment to the residents of southern McHenry and Kane
24 Counties. 88 percent of the patients that we currently

1 serve and treat in the Immediate Care in Huntley come from
2 the proposed service area for the hospital. I believe that
3 Centegra will work collaboratively with the Village of
4 Huntley to meet the needs of a growing population in Lake
5 of the Hills, Algonquin, and other neighboring communities,
6 because we have done that already through our existing
7 facilities on the Huntley campus. The people of McHenry
8 County know and trust not only the Centegra name but
9 everything it has come to represent, which to me is quality
10 patient care, provided with integrity and excellence as its
11 foundation.

12 New State data shows that there is an
13 in-patient bed need in southern McHenry County and northern
14 Kane County. This is due to population growth. With
15 Centegra's tradition of meeting the needs of the community,
16 who better to answer this need than a trusted healthcare
17 system? Centegra Health System has continued to support
18 growth in healthcare services by providing an answer where
19 there is a need. Some of these answers include the Health
20 Bridge Fitness Centers and the Immediate Care Centers. As
21 a result, our patients in our community have benefited from
22 the advanced technologies of on-site x-ray, CT, MRI, and
23 ultrasound, which have allowed me and my colleagues to
24 treat patients that live within the community today.

1 I would like to believe that the Immediate
2 Care is an extension of Centegra's commitment to the
3 community in southern McHenry and northern Kane Counties
4 and look forward to what a full-service emergency
5 department, Level II nursery, non-invasive cardiology
6 services, a dedicated women's center, and a heli-pad pad
7 for the transport of critical patients, would do for the
8 patients in our community. It makes me proud to start and
9 end my day knowing that we at Centegra practice a
10 compassionate approach to healthcare and to serve the
11 patients that walk in our door.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause)

14 MS. AVERY: Major John Price.

15 (Pause)

16 MR. PRICE: I'm Major John Price, P-r-i-c-e,
17 with McHenry County Salvation Army. I was going to say
18 "Good morning, ladies and gentlemen", but it's "Good
19 afternoon, ladies and gentlemen".

20 I'm Major John Price, the Executive Director
21 of the Salvation Army of McHenry County. My organization
22 serves here in Huntley at the Grafton Township Office, as
23 well as in eight other locations in McHenry County.

24 I speak today in favor of the proposed

1 Centegra Hospital. Centegra Health Systems is a
2 state-of-the-art healthcare system that consistently ranks
3 among the nation's best hospitals for quality care,
4 excellent service delivery, and patient satisfaction. My
5 family and I have sought medical care with Centegra, care
6 which has been among the best received anywhere in the
7 world. I would know, for I've lived in several states and
8 overseas while in the military.

9 Centegra's care is professional,
10 compassionate, and provided by skilled personnel, among the
11 best in their field. Centegra is uniquely positioned to
12 fill an ever increasing void in available care for the
13 southern corner of McHenry County. This care includes
14 full-service emergency care, a Level II nursery, advanced
15 imaging, and specialty care.

16 Huntley is one of the fastest growing
17 communities in McHenry County. From 1990 to the present,
18 the population of Huntley has grown by nearly 500 percent.
19 Nearly 200 percent of that growth has been since the year
20 2000. The need for a full-service hospital here has never
21 been greater. It only makes sense that Centegra Health
22 System would build its newest hospital here in Huntley,
23 because Centegra is already providing excellent -- excuse
24 me -- outpatient and immediate care in Huntley.

1 Clancy. That's K-e-l-l-e-y, C-l-a-n-c-y.

2 Good afternoon. I'm the Vice-President of
3 External Affairs for Alexian Brothers Health System, and
4 I'd like to tell you why I'm against Centegra's Certificate
5 of Need to build a hospital at Huntley.

6 I have worked in the healthcare field for much
7 of my career and focused on community health for the last
8 two decades. I've admired the philosophy and intent of the
9 State Board to keep balance and integrity in the
10 Certificate of Need process. The Board traditionally will
11 not approve a project unless there is actual need for it in
12 a community, out of concern that a project might needlessly
13 duplicate services.

14 From the point of view of Alexian Brothers
15 Health System, which runs St. Alexius Medical Center, and
16 Alexian Brothers Medical Center, Centegra has not proven
17 that there is an actual need for this project. Further,
18 this new hospital would duplicate services in an area that
19 is served already by several regional medical centers that
20 have an overabundance of hospital beds.

21 When Centegra asked the State to expand its
22 hospital at Woodstock, Alexian Brothers Health System
23 publicly supported it. We're willing to support projects
24 when there is a need for more health services in the

1 region. But this proposal for a hospital in Huntley does
2 not meet that standard.

3 In just the last few years, Provena St. Joseph
4 Hospital, Sherman Hospital, and St. Alexius all finished or
5 received approval for major investments in their
6 facilities. In all cases, the pledge made by these
7 hospitals to serve residents in the entire northern Fox
8 Valley area was instrumental in receiving that State
9 approval. In the case of St. Alexius, we're breaking
10 ground next month for our new children's hospital. It will
11 provide services that few hospitals offer outside the City
12 of Chicago, such as several pediatric sub-specialties.
13 Expensive, but necessary, healthcare projects like this are
14 not sustainable on their own. They rely on the support
15 from serving patients throughout the region.

16 We know that hospital bed demand is down and
17 will continue to drop because of the requirements of the
18 federal healthcare reform, and it's obvious that the home
19 building boom of several years ago has come and gone. Just
20 because Centegra wants to add more hospital beds to the
21 area, they can't create on their own the people to fill
22 them. If Centegra's hospital were to be built, it would be
23 needlessly expensive for everyone, including taxpayers.

24 Every hospital has fixed costs, such as

1 keeping the required number of professional staff on site
2 24/7, keeping up the building, paying energy bills. These
3 costs are the same whether a hospital is operating at
4 capacity or has very few patients. These costs get passed
5 through to public and private insurance companies, and we
6 all end up picking up the tab for underutilized facilities.

7 I urge State Board members to take all of this
8 into account when they make their decision, and deny
9 Centegra's application.

10 Thank you.

11 (Applause)

12 MS. AVERY: Dr. John Lee.

13 (Pause)

14 MR. LEE: Good afternoon. My name is Dr. John
15 Lee, and I am a Board-certified anesthesiologist,
16 practicing at Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital in
17 Barrington, which is located less than one mile away from
18 McHenry County.

19 I disagree with the premise of this project
20 that additional beds are needed in McHenry County.
21 Constructing a 128-bed hospital in McHenry County will
22 increase the number of beds in a relatively small county at
23 a tremendous cost. It would also mean that Centegra would
24 own three of the four hospitals in McHenry County. I can't

1 think of any other place in Illinois where one system has
2 three hospitals in one county, that make up over 90 percent
3 of the beds.

4 I'm also concerned whether Centegra could
5 adequately staff this new hospital with the appropriate
6 number of physicians. A 2010 study by RAND Corporation,
7 leading healthcare firm, found a current shortage of 3,800
8 anesthesiologist in the United States and projects a
9 possible shortage of 12,500 anesthesiologists by 2020.
10 Now, this shortage of anesthesia professionals is just as
11 important as the shortage in primary care physicians. Just
12 because a health system builds a new hospital doesn't mean
13 that they can effectively staff it on day one.

14 Also, I know that Sherman just built a
15 replacement hospital in Elgin and that both St. Joe's in
16 Elgin and St. Alexis have had big construction projects on
17 their existing campuses. All of these projects were
18 approved by the Board. The Centegra Hospital project
19 threatens not only to harm where I practice, Good Shepherd,
20 but also will undo the hundreds of millions of dollars put
21 into these hospitals. Instead of creating greater quality
22 in healthcare facilities, approval of this hospital will
23 undermine the Board's previous actions with respect to the
24 other area hospitals.

1 I am here today asking the Board to not
2 approve the Centegra application to significantly increase
3 the number of beds in McHenry County when it is not needed.
4 Thank you.

5 (Applause)

6 MS. AVERY: Chip Bartel.

7 MR. BARTEL: Good afternoon. My name is Chip
8 Bartel, B-a-r-t-e-l. I'm the Finance Director of the
9 Blackhawk Area Counsel, Boy Scouts of America.

10 I stand before you today, not as a patient,
11 loved one of a patient, resident of Huntley, nor as an
12 executive of the Boy Scouts of America, but rather I stand
13 before you as an advocate for the 4,000-plus families and
14 youngsters served in McHenry County by the Boy Scouts of
15 America. As an executive of major non-profit here in
16 McHenry County, I want to share with you a different
17 vantage point than your typical proponent.

18 I have had the distinct pleasure of working
19 closely with Centegra and its advocates throughout several
20 different facets of community-based services. Centegra has
21 proven to be a strong advocate for our annual Distinguished
22 Citizens event, shining a light on fellow citizens that
23 have strong community-minded character attributes. Our
24 relationship with Centegra has elevated our awareness and

1 reoriented our strategic planning, as well as aided us in
2 the technical and marketing roles we as non-profits play
3 here in McHenry County. This partnership has had a direct
4 impact on the character and citizenship building of the
5 youth right here in Huntley. Their dedication and
6 unwavered support of the human services and social
7 organizations throughout McHenry County is truly a
8 blessing. Because of their dedication, thousands of
9 families and youth have been impacted, whether that's
10 through the Boy Scouts of America or one of the other
11 several other groups they support. They are truly a
12 compassionate and committed team, investing not only in the
13 technological advances of medicine, but in the families and
14 communities we call home.

15 Centegra can play a vital role in this
16 community from unmatched healthcare to new job development
17 to unprecedented community service. This is clearly an
18 organization that can offer more than just great
19 healthcare. It is an organization that becomes part of the
20 community it resides in, collectively creating a culture
21 that gives back to others through servant leadership and
22 steadfast community service. They are an organization that
23 cares and an organization that we all can trust.

24 I am honored today to be able to stand in

1 front of you and support Centegra Hospital in its wish to
2 call Huntley home.

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause)

5 MS. AVERY: Marcy Piekos.

6 (Pause)

7 MS. PIEKOS: Good afternoon. I am Marcy
8 Piekos, M-a-r-c-y, P-i-e-k-o-s. I'm the Executor Director
9 of Leadership, Greater McHenry County, known as LGMC.
10 Today, as the representative for LGMC, I proudly support
11 Centegra in its efforts to address a critical need for an
12 effective community; that is, expanding quality healthcare.

13 LGMC was founded in 2004 by Centegra CEO
14 Michael Eesley. Centegra continues to be a primary,
15 sustainable force for this leadership organization,
16 demonstrating their proclaimed servant leadership attitude
17 in this county. It's important to note that Centegra
18 continues to hold a very prominent place in the ongoing
19 development of LGMC. Additionally, Centegra alumni are
20 involved as volunteers on one of our seven committees.
21 Currently, there are 200 alumni for LGMC, and to date there
22 are 29 Centegra alumni who graduated from our 10-month
23 program. 10 of these individuals are members of our Board
24 Of trustees or actively participating in one of our

1 committees.

2 LGMC's mission is to educate and inspire
3 professionals to engage in community leadership. This
4 addresses another very critical need of every effective
5 community, and that is leaders who are indeed focused and
6 concerned for all public processes. No other county-wide
7 community leadership program exists that has this same
8 mission or focus, and the important aspect of this is
9 Centegra saw this need 8 years ago and made a commitment to
10 breathe life into it.

11 Community leadership development must be
12 fostered through focused programs. This, in turn, creates
13 a leadership resource for our entire McHenry County
14 community. Leadership must be developed. It cannot just
15 happen. Centegra has shown sustained support for this
16 collaborative leadership imperative. Just as Mike Eesley
17 has served as the catalyst to launch LGMC, under his
18 visionary leadership, Centegra is striving to integrate
19 Huntley Hospital into its healthcare system, thereby
20 broadening the continuum of excellent healthcare for
21 McHenry County. Strong and effective community leadership
22 is the foundation of a healthy and, indeed, thriving
23 community.

24 I'm excited at the prospect of Centegra

1 incorporating Huntley Hospital in its healthcare system.
2 It will offer a lot more than broadening healthcare and job
3 opportunities. It will lead McHenry County into the future
4 with state-of-the-art facilities serving more people in
5 more advanced ways. LGMC, through its founding
6 organizations likes Centegra, developed a leadership
7 program and model, providing the perfect starting point for
8 those who truly want to serve and lead in our community,
9 while also enhancing their personal and professional
10 development. Centegra inspired a shared vision. I offer
11 you this, because this parallels what Centegra is doing
12 here today, inspiring a shared vision to extend quality
13 healthcare to the southern part of McHenry County. The
14 benefits are obvious. Leadership is certainly solid, and
15 the broader community will be served by allowing Centegra
16 to move forward with this action.

17 In closing, I'm appreciative for this
18 opportunity to endorse Centegra's dynamic initiative.

19 I thank you.

20 (Applause)

21 MS. AVERY: Eric Krueger.

22 (Pause)

23 MR. KRUEGER: Hi. I'm Eric Krueger,
24 K-r-u-e-g-e-r, Chief Financial Officer of Sherman Hospital.

1 I cannot support a hospital in Huntley.
2 Centegra has campaigned hard for its hospital proposal,
3 among other things hosting meals at the Sun City lodges and
4 soliciting support during doctor's visits. These efforts
5 in what seem like the obvious benefits of another hospital
6 have caused the community to rally around these plans.

7 Sound bites have appealed. Centegra claims
8 that the proposal will bring jobs, private investment to
9 the community and growth. People want to hear the
10 recession is over and that we can go back to business as
11 usual. The financial climate might feel like it's
12 improved, but our economic reality has changed drastically,
13 and we must face the facts.

14 As for claims that the recession is over, the
15 pace of growth in the nation's output has been anemic, and
16 the unemployment rate is expected to stay high. The
17 federal budget deficit is surging, Medicare costs are
18 growing at an astounding rate, and some say our federal
19 budget is on life support. So, that is the national
20 backdrop.

21 Next, this community must consider what their
22 priorities should be as it relates to each individual's
23 access to healthcare. If you are retired, your concern
24 should be the solvency of the Medicare program and its

1 scope of benefits and co-pays. As for those still working,
2 it's similar. How much are your health insurance premiums?
3 What are your out-of-pocket costs for healthcare services,
4 and do you have job security? As for the impact of
5 healthcare spending on seniors, the future is bleak for
6 senior coverage under government insurance, as well as
7 pension programs. The increased costs that these benefit
8 programs are facing is unsustainable, especially because of
9 healthcare reform's broader coverage mandates. That means
10 as the Boomers enter retirement, benefits will be reduced
11 and even eliminated.

12 As for people covered under employer-based
13 health plans, employers are struggling to find ways to stay
14 profitable while offering quality health coverage to their
15 work force. One way employers are reducing the cost of
16 healthcare premiums is to increase premium sharing,
17 co-pays, and deductibles, and increase the number of
18 out-of-pocket expenses for which employees are responsible.
19 As the CFO of a hospital, I see how this cost shifting is
20 affecting the average healthcare consumer. They are more
21 judicious about the services they receive, because most
22 employees have a bigger contribution to their medical
23 expenses than they did just five years ago. The cost of
24 healthcare insurance is such a significant expense to

1 employers today that employers are looking to have fewer
2 full-time employees on the payroll to keep their healthcare
3 cost benefits down. In some cases, employers are combating
4 increases in health premiums by reducing full-time
5 employees to part-time, taking on independent contractors
6 rather than full-time employees, or outsourcing desk jobs
7 overseas where labor costs are a fraction what they are
8 here and health insurance is not available.

9 Insuring affordable insurance coverage into
10 the future is what the community needs to focus on, not
11 having a backyard hospital when other hospitals are easily
12 and safely accessible.

13 Thank you.

14 (Applause)

15 MS. AVERY: We'll take a ten-minute break.

16 (Recess)

17 MS. AVERY: Thank you for your patience.

18 Dr. Matt Stilson.

19 (Pause)

20 MR. STILSON: Hello. My name is Dr. Matthew
21 Stilson, S-t-i-l-s-o-n. I'm a Board-certified emergency
22 physician. I serve as the Emergency Department Director at
23 Sherman Hospital in Elgin. In that role, I oversee the
24 Emergency Department at the hospital, as well as Sherman's

1 immediate care centers in Algonquin, Elgin, and South
2 Elgin.

3 Sherman Hospital's new state-of-the-art
4 Emergency Department serves more than 49,000 people each
5 year. We have physicians specially trained in emergency
6 medicine, as well as certified trauma nurse specialists.
7 We are also certified as an Emergency Department Approved
8 for Pediatrics.

9 I was surprised when I heard the State Board
10 was considering application for a new hospital in Huntley.
11 Given Sherman's regional capabilities, excellent access
12 from nearby communities, and capacity for the future, I do
13 not see a need for additional facilities. Ambulances
14 serving people who live in Huntley and the surrounding
15 areas bring the vast majority of their patients to Sherman
16 because we are so close and because we have a large,
17 capable, and brand new Emergency Department. With our
18 location near the border of Kane and McHenry Counties, we
19 are perfectly positioned to serve McHenry County residents.

20 Sherman works very closely with the EMS
21 community. We have served as the area resource hospital
22 for the training of paramedics for more than 25 years. Our
23 new Emergency Department was designed with a dedicated
24 entrance for ambulances, and because of our 24-hour

1 communication network with paramedics and emergency
2 transports, we always begin treating emergency patients
3 before they even arrive to the hospital. Additionally, the
4 most important factor for people in life-threatening
5 situations is not necessarily how close their home is to a
6 hospital but how long it takes EMS and paramedics to reach
7 them and stabilize them, and Huntley is less than 14
8 minutes away from Sherman, a very reasonable transport time
9 for patients needing emergency services.

10 Sherman is a major trauma and cardiac center,
11 so we also have the technology and the medical expertise to
12 act quickly and effectively 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
13 Our surgery and cardiac catheterization suites are located
14 immediately adjacent to the Emergency Department for quick
15 transfers.

16 If you would forgive me, I'm going to go off
17 my written statements for just a moment. I wanted to take
18 a brief moment to refute some of the testimony that we
19 heard from some of our EMS colleagues a little while ago.
20 We've heard some comments about the sick patients that need
21 emergency services, heart attack patients, stroke patients,
22 and trauma patients. These represent the sickest of all of
23 the patients who need immediate stabilization by EMS
24 personnel, and transportation to the hospital. But not

1 podium and testified in opposition to this project have
2 referred to the fact that there is, quote, no need for this
3 facility, to which I would respond that, as they would very
4 well know, need in the context of a new hospital is not
5 something that is determined by emotions or perceptions or
6 by any other feeling. It's basically something that is
7 determined by formula, and it's determined by the State of
8 Illinois, and according to the State of Illinois, there
9 absolutely is a need for a hospital in Huntley, Illinois.
10 According to the State formula, 83 beds are needed or will
11 be by 2015 in Huntley, and that is in area A-10. And in
12 Area A-11, there is a need for in excess of 60 beds, which,
13 by the way, is a need that was created when Sherman Health
14 System shrunk the size of their hospital by a hundred beds,
15 because, prior to that, they -- before building their new
16 hospital, they had more than a hundred beds more than what
17 they have now.

18 We heard some arguments about -- we've heard
19 some suggestions about arguments that Centegra has made in
20 the past, and we even had one speaker quote from a
21 transcript, and I can tell you that there is not one member
22 on this Centegra team that needs a transcript to remind us
23 what we said then and what we would say now if the
24 circumstances were the same. What we would say now and

1 what we said then was "Follow the Rules." With respect to
2 the Mercy facility that we opposed in 2004, at the time
3 that they made that proposal, there was an excess of 53
4 beds in that Planning Area. With respect to the Vista
5 project, even today there's an excess of a 144 beds in the
6 Lake County Planning Area. So, we're not going to retreat
7 from those comments, because we fully stand by them. We
8 have always been an organization that has said, "Follow the
9 Rules." And we've not only said, "Follow the Rules", we've
10 done it ourselves in every bit of planning that we've ever
11 embarked upon for our health system.

12 Of all the health systems that we've heard
13 from today, including some that you could probably get to
14 easier by jumping in a plane at Lake of the Hills Airport,
15 only one health system has consistently followed the Rules,
16 and that would be Centegra.

17 We heard Mr. Floyd from Sherman refer to our
18 new hospital as a Level II trauma center, and others from
19 Sherman as a limited-use hospital, a limited-use hospital.
20 Let's set the record straight. It's a Level II trauma
21 center that is going to provide a full complement of
22 services for people who need it who live in this community
23 and who deserve to have that healthcare in a ready access
24 fashion.

1 They talk about the fact that -- and this is
2 why they claim they should be entitled to refer to it as a
3 limited-use hospital. They say because we're not going to
4 have cardiac catheterization when we open our doors, that
5 makes it a limited-use hospital. I guess that would have
6 made Good Shepherd a limited use hospital when they opened
7 too, because they were a Level II trauma center. Here's
8 the facts. As we consistently have followed the Rules, we
9 will do so with the Huntley facility, too, and when we meet
10 State standards to have cardiac catheterization in our
11 facility, we will apply for a CON and we will open cardiac
12 catheterization in Huntley, just like in the other facility
13 that we have the same services in, and at that time, I
14 would expect that Sherman will fully support our request
15 for that, since they apparently think that that's something
16 that we need to have. And we'll be counting on that
17 support.

18 We've heard comments from Mercy Health System
19 about our projected time frame for the construction of our
20 project, and they've been critical of the fact that we do
21 not plan to start construction of our facility until a year
22 after we receive State approval, to which I would respond
23 that we need that year in order to hire the contractors, in
24 order to do all of the other work that's associated with

1 final engineering and planning and working with the Village
2 of Huntley to get this building constructed. So, there is
3 no delay in the construction of this facility, and I would
4 suggest to you that any system that tells you that you can
5 go out and build a new hospital, a 128-bed hospital
6 tomorrow, is not an organization that does a whole lot of
7 planning. An organization that's interested in planning
8 would tell you that you can't do that. An organization
9 that is interested in planning and following the Rules
10 would not propose to build a hospital when there's a 53-bed
11 excess in the planning area in which they propose to build
12 it.

13 Woodstock, we've talked a little bit, and
14 we've heard some comments from some people, and some of
15 them were patients, and I expected this, and they expressed
16 disappointment with the fact that we have decided to go in
17 a different direction with respect to our approved
18 Woodstock project, to which I would respond that we were
19 scheduled to start construction on the Woodstock project at
20 about the time that the United States reached the depth of
21 the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, and I
22 scarcely believe that there is a health system among us in
23 the room that wouldn't have done the same thing under the
24 circumstance. Thank you.

1 So, what we did during that time frame while
2 we waited for the economy to recover is we planned, and we
3 looked for the lead from the State, and we looked at the
4 State numbers about where services were necessary and what
5 would be the most efficient use of the resources that we
6 have, and we made the decision that the greatest
7 efficiencies would be had by not abandoning our Woodstock
8 project, but by moving it to Huntley in the form of a
9 full-service hospital, the beautiful full-service hospital
10 that we're seeking approval of as a part of this process.
11 So, we haven't abandoned those plans, we've expanded them.

12 The last couple things I wanted to mention,
13 we've heard a couple of times from opponents of the project
14 about the model way to expend, about outpatient versus
15 in-patient and you should always look to expand your
16 existing facilities instead of building new ones. Well,
17 that model appears to be a model that only applies to us or
18 others who wish to build a new hospital, especially in the
19 case of Advocate, because their planning model didn't stop
20 them from seeking to build a new hospital in Round Lake,
21 and it didn't stop them from seeking to build a new
22 hospital in Tinley Park. It seems to me that the true
23 model for our primary opponent, Advocate, is that you can't
24 build a hospital unless you're Advocate.

1 Advocate and Sherman have complained -- last
2 point I have is that Advocate and Sherman have both
3 complained here and suggested that we shouldn't expand our
4 services, but at the same time, they have been retracting
5 desperately-needed services for the community. The prime
6 example of that can be found with Advocate Health System's
7 decision to close Behavioral Health, a service that
8 Centegra has faithfully provided for our community for
9 years.

10 At the end of the day, the one thing I haven't
11 heard any of our opponents talk about is the people that we
12 serve in this community.

13 (Applause)

14 MR. SHEPLEY: That's what this hospital is all about. It's
15 about serving the community. We followed the Rules, we
16 meet the State standards, we've watched the need, and we're
17 asking the Planning Board for your support.

18 (Applause)

19 MS. AVERY: Lori Dayon.

20 (Pause)

21 MS. DAYON: Well, I am here representing the
22 very people that Mr. Shepley just told about, the people in
23 the community. My name is Lori Dayon, D-a-y-o-n, and I'm
24 the Executor Director of Girls on the Run of Northwest

1 Illinois. We are a non-profit organization dedicated to
2 helping young girls live life outside the girl box, using a
3 20-lesson curriculum, designed to promote good choices for
4 a lifetime of self-respect and healthy living. This
5 curriculum is designed specifically to address these
6 issues, using warm-ups and work-outs, which encourage
7 emotional, social, mental, spiritual, and physical
8 well-being.

9 Centegra Health Systems is committed to the
10 community in which they serve. They have been a partner of
11 Girls on the Run of Northwest Illinois for three years,
12 providing not only financial but volunteer support.
13 Centegra's commitment to the community is unparalleled.
14 For example, last spring Centegra reached out to local
15 organizations to include them in their team-building day,
16 which included the employees working together to build new
17 bicycles. Centegra sought out children from the community
18 who were in need, and presented these kids with these brand
19 new bikes at the conclusion of the day. Not only were the
20 kids absolutely thrilled, but it was a complete surprise to
21 the employees as well, and they had a chance to talk
22 one-on-one with the recipients of the bikes they made. It
23 truly made a difference in the lives of those children.

24 I personally have been a member of Centegra's

1 Health Bridge Fitness Center for over five years, because
2 it is a wellness and family-focused facility. I could not
3 be more pleased with the services that Centegra offers me
4 and my family.

5 A Centegra hospital located in Huntley would
6 be an amazing addition to the growth that our communities
7 have experienced. Right now, if I need to get my child to
8 the hospital, at my current address it would take at least
9 25 minutes. With this new proposal, I can have my child
10 under a doctor's care within minutes. As a parent, this is
11 crucial, as we all know that minutes matter when it comes
12 to health issues.

13 Additionally, but not less importantly, my mom
14 lives in Huntley, and having a hospital so close would mean
15 immediate care for my entire family.

16 I fully support Centegra Health System's
17 proposal to build a new Centegra Hospital in Huntley,
18 Illinois. I cannot be more excited about the prospect of
19 Centegra leading the way and adding another hospital to our
20 community.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause)

23 MS. AVERY: Danny I-s-a-c-k-s-e-n.

24 (Pause)

1 MR. ISACKSEN: Hello. My name is Dan
2 Isacksen. I'm the Chief Financial Officer of the Alexian
3 Brothers Medical Group. Our medical group is affiliated
4 with the St. Alexius Medical Center in Hoffman Estates.

5 We know residents in the northern Fox Valley
6 are served well by several hospitals in the area, and we
7 oppose Centegra's plan for a new hospital in Huntley,
8 because it would duplicate healthcare services. Our
9 physician group has more than 30 primary care physicians
10 who treat patients at 11 offices. One of those offices is
11 located in Elgin, only a few miles from the McHenry County
12 border.

13 In addition, our physicians staff 7 immediate
14 care facilities and many occupational health facilities and
15 are involved in specialty services. The specialists
16 affiliated with our practice address the neurosciences,
17 breast health, cardiovascular, and geriatric issues, to
18 name a few.

19 St. Alexius is just one of several regional
20 medical centers in the far northwest suburban area. For
21 example, Advocate Good Shepherd, Sherman, and Provena St.
22 Joseph also offer comprehensive care, and none of the
23 patients have to fly into any of those hospitals, I'm happy
24 to say. Hospitals that have had projects approved in the

1 last several years -- namely, St. Alexius, Sherman, and
2 Provena St. Joseph -- all promised the Board that they
3 would serve a regional population that includes southern
4 McHenry County. In fact, all the hospitals depend on that
5 population to support the kind of high quality specialty
6 care that residents have come to expect.

7 If the Centegra project is approved, however,
8 the new hospital would weaken all of the current regional
9 medical centers. In effect, the Centegra Hospital, which
10 would offer basic, limited care, would make it tougher for
11 all of the other facilities to provide specialized
12 services, such as an open heart surgery, such as open heart
13 surgery, advanced pediatric care, including Level III
14 neonatal intensive care unit.

15 As we all know, the financial resources that
16 can be devoted to healthcare, whether they come from
17 government or private insurers or patient pockets, are
18 finite. Spending these scarce resources on a duplicate
19 facility would only weaken the financial support for the
20 established, excellent network of health resources
21 available today. I am confident the Board will take these
22 points into serious consideration and reject Centegra's
23 Certificate of Need.

24 Thank you for your time.

1 (Applause)

2 MS. AVERY: David Kielpinski.

3 (Pause)

4 MR. KIELPINSKI: My name is David Kielpinski.
5 I'm a Trustee for the Village of Richmond. And I want to
6 thank President Sass for opening this beautiful facility to
7 have this meeting today. It's actually -- this room is
8 probably bigger than our entire Village Hall.

9 I've heard several things today -- and I've
10 never been to one of these meetings before. (Oh, by the
11 way, I'm veering off my prepared talk just briefly.) And
12 it just amazes -- I'm so thrilled that Centegra has the
13 plans and strategy to look to the future. This meeting so
14 much reminds me of 1990, sitting in IDOT meetings where
15 people screamed, "Don't build roads and they won't come",
16 and we know what that did here.

17 Let me put my head back on, that I came up
18 here for.

19 I'm Vice-President of It's All About Kids.
20 It's All About Kids is a local not-for-profit. I'm writing
21 to express our support for a proposed hospital in Huntley,
22 Centegra Health System Project No. 10-090. Hospital
23 services are needed in the Huntley area, and Centegra is
24 the health system best suited to provide these services.

1 I go on to say Centegra Health System takes
2 its responsibility to the community very seriously and
3 continues to look for ways to improve the care and outreach
4 it provides. It's All About Kids is a local 501(c)(3) --
5 and we are 14 years old -- that financially helps local
6 families that has a child with cancer. Over the years,
7 Centegra has not only helped us financially, but they have
8 found ways to refer families to us that have a child with
9 cancer that we can then help with our financial -- the
10 financial assistance that we raise.

11 Because of the community's need for hospital
12 services, the improved access to healthcare and the
13 responsibility that Centegra System exhibits throughout
14 McHenry County, we urge the Board to approve the
15 application by Centegra Health System for this new hospital
16 in Huntley.

17 Thank you.

18 (Applause)

19 MS. AVERY: Thomas McTavish (phonetic).

20 MR. BUSCH: Hello my name is Guy Busch,
21 B-u-s-c-h, speaking on behalf of Tom McTavish (phonetic),
22 who, unfortunately, was called away. And I would also at
23 this time like to defer his time to Dr. Ted Lorenc.

24 MS. AVERY: Thank you.

1 (Pause)

2 MR. LORENC: Thank you. My name is Dr. Ted
3 Lorenc, and I am an internal medicine physician. Unlike
4 Dr. Kakish, who has been in practice only four years, I
5 have been in practice in Crystal Lake for 34 years. I came
6 when Crystal Lake was only a town of 12,000 and the
7 excitement of the year was when the second McDonald's came.
8 That may not have been the healthiest thing, but it still
9 was exciting.

10 Centegra and its precursors have been here for
11 much longer than that -- Woodstock Hospital for a hundred
12 years, McHenry Hospital for 60 years, long before Good
13 Shepherd came to the area, long before Sherman moved west,
14 long before Jamesville corporation called Mercy and
15 (inaudible) infiltrating county.

16 I have been affiliated with Centegra for all
17 of my 34 years. It's been good, very good, for my
18 patients, and I too am a consumer of healthcare. My
19 children were born here, my grandchildren were born here.
20 I can tell you unequivocally that Centegra always plays by
21 the rules, always has. When Good Shepherd received
22 approval for the open heart program, without going through
23 the minimum standards requested by the Health Facilities
24 Planning Board, this raised a lot of eyebrows. Centegra

1 instead played by the rules. We did our due diligence. We
2 did what we needed to do. We applied and received
3 permission for our open heart program. Again, we played by
4 the rules.

5 Statistics from both federal and state
6 governments demonstrate the need for a full-service
7 hospital in the area. The proposed service area for
8 Centegra Hospital-Huntley includes census tracts that have
9 been designated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human
10 Services as medically under served areas and health
11 manpower shortage areas. It also includes census tracts
12 that have been designated by the State of Illinois as
13 medically under served populations.

14 Regardless of what other hospitals may say for
15 competitive reasons, it is clear that the residents and
16 communities we propose to serve with Centegra
17 Hospital-Huntley are in need of increased access to care.
18 This is especially noteworthy when considering the region's
19 strong population growth and the concentration of senior
20 citizens.

21 I ask the Illinois Health Facilities and
22 Services Review Board to heed the designations of the
23 federal and state government and to approve Centegra
24 Hospital-Huntley.

1 Thank you.

2 (Applause)

3 MS. AVERY: Katie Bata, B-a-t-a.

4 (Pause)

5 MS. BATA: Good afternoon. My name is Katie
6 Bata. I'm Vice-President of Human Resources at Sherman
7 Health in Elgin, and let's talk about people, shall we,
8 because people are really the cornerstone of the healthcare
9 services that we deliver.

10 This proposal will harm Sherman Hospital's
11 efforts to recruit and retain quality clinical staff, as
12 well as exacerbate systemic nurse staffing shortages. This
13 means higher healthcare costs and lower quality of care.
14 Furthermore, since hospital bed utilization is not
15 increasing in the region, a new hospital will create fewer
16 nursing jobs. Based on duplication of services, there will
17 be some redistribution of the healthcare work force.
18 However, this will result in increased staffing costs,
19 creating less efficient healthcare delivery.

20 A qualified nursing staff is critical to
21 success of any hospital, and Sherman is no exception. We
22 are investing our nursing staff -- we are investing in our
23 nursing staff in many ways, including our commitment to
24 obtain magnet status. Magnet hospitals are recognized for

1 the quality and strength of their nursing staff, for their
2 high level of nurse job satisfaction, a low staff nurse
3 turnover rate, and appropriate grievance resolution. Since
4 moving to our new location, we have reduced our staff
5 vacancy rates by hiring qualified clinical staff. We are
6 proud of the excellent care our nurses provide. They're
7 integral members of our patient care delivery team,
8 providing crucial information and feedback. To maintain
9 this level of excellence, we need to recruit and retain
10 qualified nurses.

11 Huntley Hospital will threaten many of our
12 patient care staff recruiting accomplishments that we have
13 achieved over the years, as well as hamper our ability to
14 recruit and retain qualified nursing and patient care staff
15 going forward. As I'm sure everyone is aware, the overall
16 industry is battling a nursing shortage with estimates of
17 over 100,000 open nursing positions nationwide. Nurse
18 staffing demand is nationally 6 percent higher than the
19 available supply. In 2008, combined nursing home and
20 hospital vacancies, as reported by the national
21 associations, relayed an even larger shortage of over 8
22 percent. The State of Illinois has identified annual
23 shortages of almost 2,000 RN's from 2006 to 2016. Also,
24 based on the aging workforce and the need for more advanced

1 RN training with expanded roles, a large and prolonged
2 shortage of nurses is expected for years to come.

3 Establishment of a new hospital will increase
4 competition for the limited number of quality nurses and
5 patient care staff, jeopardizing the ability of existing
6 hospitals to maintain quality nursing staff. Inadequately
7 staffed facilities must resort to nurse staffing agencies,
8 which are costly, impede continuity of care, and increase
9 the risk of avoidable adverse events. As a result, quality
10 of care declines while the cost of healthcare increases.

11 The CON Board should deny Centegra's
12 application for a new hospital in Huntley.

13 Thank you.

14 (Applause)

15 MS. AVERY: Kenneth Kozy.

16 (Pause)

17 MR. KOZY: Hi. My name is Ken Kozy, K-o-z-y.
18 Thank you very much for this opportunity and also for your
19 patience to listen to all the comments today.

20 After moving from Wheaton, Illinois to Sun
21 City-Huntley, my wife and I slowly and carefully
22 transferred our physician care over from Central DuPage
23 Hospital to Centegra Hospital physicians. We are very
24 pleased with our current healthcare at Centegra. Our

1 physicians' offices are located right next to the location
2 of the proposed Centegra Hospital in Huntley. We have
3 needed to use their excellent emergency -- that is,
4 immediate care facilities and what a relief it is to have
5 them so close, because transportation, as you know, for
6 older citizens is challenging. In the future, if anyone in
7 our community will need emergency ambulatory care, it will
8 be wonderful and vital that Centegra will be so close for
9 all of us.

10 Like many in Sun City, which is a
11 55-plus-year-old community of people, we are in favor of
12 the proposed Centegra Hospital and encourage you to vote
13 for this responsible choice. Centegra has been an
14 excellent healthcare neighbor by sponsoring many local
15 wellness fairs and seminars to help us manage our good
16 health. The Centegra Wellness Center at Sun City, under
17 the direction of Nancy Turngren, has been very proactive,
18 providing services and education to our neighborhoods.
19 Also, they have co-sponsored our resident-led Visually
20 Impaired Support and Assistance Group, for example, that
21 has helped so many with low vision and blindness improve
22 their daily lifestyles. My wife is here with her guide
23 dog, Shirley, as a matter of fact, right now.

24 I'm especially pleased that mainly private

1 investment bonds and funding will finance the local
2 construction. Added local jobs to our Huntley citizens
3 will be a big benefit. There does not appear to be any
4 additional tax burden or financing, that I know of, which
5 is a relief for us local taxpayers. And Sun City retirees
6 will supply many volunteer jobs for the new Centegra
7 Hospital and be very happy to do that.

8 Centegra has been a good corporate citizen in
9 our area, and, as a local resident, I hope you will allow
10 them to build this facility needed by our current community
11 of over 7,000 and just in time for the thousands who will
12 be moving in to this area once the construction resumes in
13 the many other housing and business developments planned in
14 our area.

15 God bless you in your deliberations. Thank
16 you.

17 (Applause)

18 MS. AVERY: Ellen Beier.

19 (Pause)

20 MS. BEIER: My name is Ellen Beier, B-e-i-e-r.

21 Good afternoon. I feel very honored to be with all of
22 these executives, board members, vice-presidents and
23 presidents. I'm just a local resident and not a very
24 eloquent speaker, but I just want to voice my opinion and

1 very thankful that I can do that.

2 My husband and I live close to the Crystal
3 Lake southeast border, and seven years ago, we were told
4 we're going to have a hospital right there -- which was
5 very exciting to us -- just to be told that there wasn't a
6 need, which caused some confusion, because every time we
7 went to the Emergency Room in McHenry, which is only 10
8 miles, but if you go through that traffic, it can take
9 sometimes up to 35, 40 minutes. But every time we got
10 there, we ended up having to wait a long, long period of
11 time. We had neighbors and friends that were taken there
12 by ambulance, only to spend the night in the Emergency Room
13 because they couldn't find a bed on the floor. So,
14 definitely, there is a need, and I'm so thankful that
15 Centegra is realizing that there is a need.

16 I'm not here today to tell you that this
17 project in Huntley is a needed project. I'm here to tell
18 you it's an unfair project. We've been living in this area
19 for 27 years. Crystal Lake, I believe, is one of the
20 biggest towns in McHenry County, yet we don't get a
21 hospital there. It just does not seem right, and I'm not
22 an economist and I don't have the degrees that most of you
23 here have, but to have three Centegra-owned hospitals in
24 such close proximity in one county, to me just doesn't seem

1 like the competition is there. The best prices I get for
2 my gas and food is when I go to a corner when there is
3 several different grocery stores or several different gas
4 stations. That's where I like to go, because my husband is
5 retiring next year and we're going to be on a fixed income.
6 With the rising cost of healthcare, the more and more
7 out-of-pocket expenses, I am concerned that with a monopoly
8 like that, that's not going to be there.

9 Again, I'm not an economist, and I don't know,
10 but this is the public that's speaking right now. I've not
11 had any bad experiences with Centegra before, so I'm not
12 here to criticize anybody. I'm just here to say that 7
13 years ago, we were promised a hospital in Crystal Lake and
14 didn't get it, and now we're supposed to wait another 7
15 years for another one to be built in an area that's even
16 further away from us than we were before, and I don't
17 really think it is going to help the overflow in McHenry at
18 all, because people will still need to go there.

19 A hospital that is going to be in Crystal
20 Lake, which is Mercy, proposing on the corner off 31 and
21 Three Oaks Road to me makes a lot more sense. Crystal Lake
22 is a very diverse group of people with different ages, but
23 in our subdivision alone, it's people that have been there
24 for 20, 30 years, older people. I hate to put myself in

1 that category, but that's the truth, and as I realize that
2 Sun City is that type of generation, too, we have it in
3 Crystal Lake as well, and I think this is where the great
4 need is.

5 So, I'm here to say it's an unfair project in
6 Huntley, and I am here to oppose it. Thank you.

7 (Applause)

8 MS. AVERY: Sandy Oslance.

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Sandy isn't here, and we
10 will submit her written testimony. We would like to defer
11 to Dr. Steven McCarthy, please.

12 (Pause)

13 MR. MCCARTHY: Good afternoon. My name is
14 Dr. Steve McCarthy. I'm a practicing internal medicine
15 physician out of Centegra Primary Care, and my office is
16 located in Algonquin, Illinois, which is a neighboring
17 township with Lake of the Hills and Huntley.

18 I just want to say, back in February 1st, 2010
19 I was delighted to share Centegra's vision for increasing
20 access to healthcare for the southern McHenry County and
21 northern Kane County areas, when Centegra Health System
22 purchased Key Medical Group which I was a practicing
23 member. Key Medical Group was a successful internal
24 medicine practice that was well respected in the community.

1 Together, Centegra Primary Care and Key Medical Group have
2 moved to the next level of patient satisfaction and quality
3 healthcare. That integration demonstrates Centegra's
4 continued commitment to provide access to full continuum of
5 care for wellness to comprehensive medical care to the
6 residents of our community.

7 Joining Centegra allowed us to join a health
8 system committed to meeting the needs of the residents of
9 greater McHenry County, as I know Centegra provides
10 services in multiple convenient locations, including the
11 hospitals, the immediate care and other primary care
12 offices, Health Bridge Fitness Centers and more. Our
13 patients are at the forefront of every medical decision
14 process. We believe our association with Centegra has
15 allowed us to provide better continuity of care and
16 enhanced access to local state-of-the-art services, those
17 including at the other Huntley campus, as mentioned by my
18 colleague, Dr. Abraham.

19 Together Centegra and Key Medical Group have
20 moved to the next level of patient satisfaction and quality
21 healthcare. This integration has allowed us additional
22 access to capital technology and physician talent. We
23 truly believe that our partnership with Centegra has
24 enhanced what we can provide for our employees as well as

1 our patients. I fully support Centegra's support to expand
2 its Huntley health campus in our community.

3 And I just want to say, I speak also for my
4 patients, and I don't get into the politics of these
5 things. This is my first time of attending these things,
6 but all I care about is that my patients can have that I
7 serve in the northern Kane County and southern McHenry have
8 close proximity to get excellent healthcare.

9 Thank you for your time.

10 (Applause)

11 MS. AVERY: Patrick McNulty.

12 (Pause)

13 MR. McNULTY: Patrick McNulty, and I would
14 like to defer at this time to Dr. Gerolimatos.

15 (Pause)

16 MR. GEROLIMATOS: Good afternoon. I am
17 Dr. Spiridon Gerolimatos, G-e-r-o-l-i-m-a-d-o-s. I'm an
18 independent radiologist and I am the Medical Director of
19 Medical Imaging at Centegra Healthcare System. I proudly
20 offer my support to the proposed Centegra Hospital-Huntley.

21 Centegra Health System is currently the leader
22 in providing state-of-the-art imaging medical equipment and
23 services to the people of northern Illinois. As we planned
24 five years ago to extend Centegra's quality services to the

1 people of southern McHenry County and northern Kane County,
2 we invested in several equipment acquisitions, including a
3 128-slice CT, right here at Huntley. The financial
4 commitment ensured people in our region would have access
5 to the best available technology near their homes. We also
6 installed a 3 Tesla MRI at Huntley to round out our
7 complete continuum of medical imaging.

8 Frankly, my job as the Medical Director is
9 difficult. Centegra is very demanding. They only demand
10 excellence, and that's what it takes.

11 Now we look at the future. Centegra Health
12 System needs to fulfill a promise made to the people of the
13 region to continue to provide improved healthcare access
14 for all medical services. Centegra Hospital at Huntley
15 would provide our patients with outstanding services of
16 quality they deserve near their homes.

17 One of the main reasons I support Centegra
18 Health System's proposal to build Centegra Hospital-Huntley
19 is because I know that Centegra will remain committed to
20 delivering the new technology to the people of our region.
21 Centegra understands the importance of putting the nearest
22 resources into the hands of the skilled physicians and
23 associates who deliver care to our patients. That
24 commitment to excellence is essential in the provision of

1 high quality healthcare, and Centegra embodies this
2 commitment.

3 I, therefore, urge the Illinois Health
4 Facilities and Services Review Board to approve Project
5 10-090.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause)

8 MS. AVERY: George Teufel.

9 (Pause)

10 MR. TEUFEL: My name is George Teufel,
11 T-e-u-f-e-l. I'm the Vice-President of Finance at Advocate
12 Good Shepherd Hospital, which is located less than a mile
13 from McHenry County. I have been in healthcare finance for
14 35 years.

15 I urge the Review Board to deny this
16 application, because adding new hospitals to the community
17 will dilute existing hospitals' resources, volumes and
18 financial capacity. This will reduce our ability to meet
19 the community need for high quality care in a cost
20 efficient manner. Huntley already has access to a hospital
21 within a 20-minute drive.

22 In an ideal world, it might be nice to have a
23 hospital in every community. However, in the world we live
24 in today, where healthcare costs are way too high,

1 proliferation of hospitals to provide immediate access must
2 be balanced with limiting expenditures which drive up
3 healthcare costs. As you likely know, there is a proposal
4 for a second new hospital in the area. Should both CONS be
5 approved, the demand forecasts for each would be invalid,
6 their ability to obtain financing would be questionable,
7 and the financial performance of both hospitals and the
8 financial stability of other area hospitals would be in
9 jeopardy.

10 Construction of a new hospital in the
11 community with access to a full range of outpatient
12 services and nearby in-patient facilities flies in the face
13 of healthcare reform, prudent use of resources, and
14 healthcare trends. This unnecessary duplication of
15 resources will needlessly increase healthcare costs for the
16 community and adversely affect the financial stability of
17 the existing area hospitals.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause)

20 MS. AVERY: Ilene Steiner.

21 (Pause)

22 MS. STEINER: I'm Ilene Steiner,
23 S-t-e-i-n-e-r. In my 23 years as a health planner with
24 national consulting firms, multi-state healthcare

1 organizations, I've conducted multiple healthcare demand
2 forecasts, feasibility studies, impact analyses, including
3 forecasts that have been published in formal documents,
4 used for bond offerings to finance major hospital
5 construction projects. I also have a Master's Degree in
6 Health Planning from John Hopkins University.

7 I'm concerned about the adverse impact that a
8 new hospital will have on the nearby hospitals, including
9 Good Shepherd. For this reason, I oppose the project. The
10 application does not address the impact of the Huntley
11 Hospital on Good Shepherd, which is located less than a
12 mile from McHenry County. I would like to offer my
13 assessment of the impact of a Huntley hospital on Good
14 Shepherd.

15 The population in the Centegra-Huntley market
16 is indeed growing and aging, increasing the demand for
17 health services. However, there is not nearly enough
18 growth to support the appropriate occupancy level for a new
19 120-bed hospital without taking volume from existing
20 hospitals and adversely affecting performance, quality and
21 financial stability at these hospitals. The proposed 120
22 beds will increase the acute care bed count at McHenry by
23 almost 50 percent in just a few years. This huge increase
24 in supply will far outweigh the increased demand, resulting

1 in low occupancy rates, underutilized resources, diminished
2 quality, and increased risk in patient safety.

3 Located just a mile from Good Shepherd,
4 McHenry County is a major source of patients for Good
5 Shepherd, providing almost half of our patients. The
6 Centegra-Huntley service area significantly overlaps with
7 Good Shepherd's primary service area. More than half of
8 the Good Shepherd patients reside in the Centegra-Huntley
9 service area. Good Shepherd will be adversely affected by
10 a 128-bed hospital located in Huntley in just a few years.

11 The applicant makes much of the issue that
12 McHenry County residents leave the county for hospital
13 services, as if this is a problem that needs remedied.
14 Out-migration is not due to a lack of facilities or lack of
15 available capacity within McHenry County facilities. The
16 fact that McHenry County choose to drive one mile across
17 the county line to our hospital hardly seems to be a
18 healthcare crisis requiring a \$200 million solution.

19 As indicated in the application, the hospital
20 will not open for another five years. If there's such a
21 great need for a hospital, why would the applicant delay
22 the project? Most hospitals don't take five years to
23 build, particularly a hospital of only 128 beds. Most
24 applicants proceed from CON approval to occupancy at a much

1 shorter time frame. Perhaps the applicant should defer
2 until there is adequate demand and funding and the project
3 can move forward in an expeditious matter. The Board
4 should not allow such a long time period.

5 Even more troubling is that another CON application to
6 serve a similar market has been submitted by Mercy-Crystal
7 Lake. Should both the Crystal Lake and the Huntley
8 applications be approved, the validity of the forecast
9 volume of each will become invalid and the stability of
10 existing hospitals will be in serious jeopardy. A key role
11 for the Health Facilities and Services Review Board is to
12 limit healthcare expenditures on unnecessary duplication of
13 resources. This is a prime opportunity for the Board to
14 fulfill its role. Considering the proximity of nearby
15 hospitals to Huntley, potential jeopardy that a new
16 hospital or hospitals will cause to the existing hospitals
17 and their ability to continue to serve their patients, I
18 urge the Board to deny this application.

19 (Applause)

20 MS. AVERY: Kevin Rynders.

21 (Pause)

22 MS. REED: My name is Barbara Reed. I'm a
23 Trustee of the Algonquin Fire Protection District, and I
24 was asked by Fire Chief Kevin Rynders to read his letter,

1 which has the support of our board, into the record.

2 I support Project 10-090 and Centegra's Health
3 System proposal to bring a new hospital to southern McHenry
4 County. Huntley and the surrounding communities make up
5 one of the fastest growing communities not only in McHenry
6 County but in the entire state. Based on this, I believe
7 there is a need for a full-service hospital in the area.

8 The Algonquin-Lake in the Hills Fire
9 Protection District provides not only traditional fire and
10 rescue services to our District, but also paramedic
11 ambulance service, including transport to the nearest
12 hospital. A new hospital facility constructed at the
13 proposed site would significantly improve the transport
14 time for many critically ill or injured patients from our
15 district. These communities are currently under served by
16 healthcare facilities, leaving local residents and workers
17 with significant travel times to existing area hospitals.

18 I support and urge the Illinois Health
19 Facilities Services and Review Board to approve Centegra
20 Hospital-Huntley, Project 10-090. Kevin J. Rynders, fire
21 Chief of the Algonquin-Lake in the Hills Fire Protection
22 District.

23 (Applause)

24 MS. AVERY: Mary Anne Weltch.

1 (Pause)

2 MS. WELTCH: Good afternoon. My name is Mary
3 Anne Weltch, and I am the Development Director of Turning
4 Point, which is a comprehensive domestic violence agency
5 and secure shelter for McHenry County. I'm here on behalf
6 of Jane Farmer, our Executive Director, who cannot be here
7 because she is right now a patient at Centegra Hospital.

8 I'm here this afternoon to express Turning
9 Point's support of the proposal to build Centegra
10 Hospital-Huntley. Turning point has partnered with
11 Centegra for many years to provide life-saving services to
12 residents in our county experiencing domestic violence
13 crisis. While this is not in here, I would like to tell
14 you that we had over 5,000 residents call McHenry County
15 crisis line at Turning Point for crisis intervention
16 services last year. The team of crisis workers at Centegra
17 work 24 hours a day, seven days a week, just as our
18 advocates do, to connect victims to us so we can intervene
19 and properly respond to domestic violence crisis. Domestic
20 violence always carries with it the risk of lethality. 36
21 percent of women who go to the emergency room do so due to
22 domestic violence. It's the leading reason why women need
23 emergency care. It is more prevalent than car accidents,
24 muggings or rapes by a stranger combined.

1 Centegra's dedicated staff understands these
2 facts, just as we do, and so they call us to come to the
3 emergency room or to the hospital when patients come in
4 following domestic violence injury. In short, we depend on
5 the staff at Centegra to help these victims.

6 There's a pressing need to expand hospital
7 services to the southern part of our county. Our past
8 experience with Centegra offers the promise of excellence
9 in service and with confidential and compassionate care.

10 Turning point is very pleased with the
11 location of the proposed Centegra Hospital-Huntley. We
12 look forward to Centegra's expansion helping us to reach
13 even more women and children in domestic violence crisis.

14 (Applause)

15 MS. AVERY: Trent Gordon.

16 (Pause)

17 MR. GORDON: Good afternoon. My name is Trent
18 Gordon, G-o-r-d-o-n, and I am the Director of Business
19 Development and Strategic Planning at Advocate Good
20 Shepherd Barrington, located one mile from McHenry County.
21 I oppose this project, because there are more effective
22 means of providing additional access to healthcare than
23 building brand new, expensive in-patient facilities. Many
24 healthcare services continue to shift to the outpatient

1 arena, where they can be provided to lower cost to
2 patients. More complex services, such as open heart
3 surgery and neurosurgery, will continue to be in-patient
4 services, but the applicant is not proposing such services.

5 It is simply incorrect to state that hospitals
6 create more access to area residents through building new
7 in-patient facilities. Numerous organizations have
8 recognized this in McHenry County, including Centegra. In
9 the last five years, Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital has
10 opened two ambulatory centers in McHenry County. Our
11 Algonquin outpatient center offers primary care physician
12 services, specialty care physician services, and imaging
13 services. This center is located less than five minutes
14 from Huntley, and we're proud to say that many Huntley
15 residents receive their healthcare at this facility.

16 Good Shepherd also has an outpatient center in
17 Crystal Lake, less than twenty minutes from the proposed
18 Huntley facility. At our Crystal Lake outpatient center,
19 we offer primary care physician services, specialty care
20 physician services, imaging services, and immediate care
21 that is staffed by Good Shepherd Board-certified emergency
22 medicine physicians. We believe that these outpatient
23 centers are a less costly, more efficient way to bring high
24 quality healthcare services to the residents of McHenry

1 County. We also offer sub-specialized services. We offer
2 maternal-fetal medicine consultations and pediatric
3 cardiology consultations at these facilities.

4 Even Centegra has recognized the shift to
5 outpatient services and has responded by providing
6 residents access through new immediate care and imaging
7 services in Huntley and Crystal Lake. The applicant does
8 not reference the negative impact that will surely occur at
9 these facilities if this new hospital is built. It is
10 quite possible that the emergency department of the
11 proposed hospital will reduce volumes at the Centegra
12 immediate care in Crystal Lake due to the close proximity.
13 Other area hospitals, such as Sherman and Provena St.
14 Joseph, offer immediate care centers that also serve the
15 residents of McHenry County.

16 And as part of my testimony, I'll be
17 submitting a map, showing the number of outpatient
18 facilities in McHenry County as well as northern Kane
19 County.

20 So, in summary, I urge the Board to deny this
21 application, because there are better ways to serve the
22 residents of McHenry County than building a brand new
23 hospital.

24 Thank you.

1 (Applause)

2 MS. AVERY: Dr. Yusk.

3 MR. YUSK: Good afternoon. My name is Tim
4 Yusk, Y-u-s-k, Director of Ambulatory Services at Advocate
5 Good Shepherd Hospital in Barrington, Illinois, speaking on
6 behalf of my colleague, Dr. Leo Kelly, Director of Quality
7 Management for Advocate Good Shepherd.

8 Dear Illinois Health Facilities and Review
9 Board: I am a Board-certified internal medicine physician
10 living in Algonquin. I apologize that I cannot speak in
11 person due to patient commitments at the time of the
12 hearing, but did want to express my opinion about this
13 project.

14 I oppose the project, because I'm concerned
15 about a delusion of volumes among hospitals will negatively
16 impact patient quality and patient safety. The main point
17 I want to make today is that a proliferation of new
18 hospitals in a geographic area already well served by
19 existing hospitals puts patient care and patient safety at
20 risk. There are numerous studies by the Agency for
21 Healthcare Research and Quality and the Institute of
22 Medicine, demonstrating that hospitals with higher volumes
23 in particular cases tend to have better outcomes than those
24 hospitals with lower volumes.

1 This proposed hospital will add nearly 50
2 percent more in-patient beds to McHenry County. That's a
3 big increase in the number of beds for one county. There
4 is little doubt that adding another hospital with that many
5 beds in the region will negatively impact the volumes of
6 area hospitals and may impact quality of care. Clinical
7 staff need adequate patient care experience to maintain
8 competencies.

9 It's important for McHenry County residents to
10 feel that they have adequate access to healthcare
11 resources, but it is more important that residents feel
12 like they have access to high quality, affordable
13 healthcare resources. There is bed capacity at both
14 Centegra Hospitals and the Mercy Hospital in Harvard. A
15 more fiscally prudent approach would be to add beds to
16 these facilities. Centegra has chosen not to take this
17 approach and is abandoning their women's project in
18 Woodstock.

19 To summarize, as I understand it, through the
20 Certificate of Need process, this Board not only helps to
21 keep healthcare costs in check by controlling capital
22 expenditures but also ensures that only high quality
23 projects are approved. In my opinion, approval of this
24 project will not add additional high quality healthcare

1 services to my community and will jeopardize the quality of
2 care being provided at existing facilities, including the
3 two McHenry County hospitals of Centegra. On this basis, I
4 would request that the Board deny this application.

5 Thank you. Sincerely, Leo Kelly, M.D.

6 (Applause)

7 MS. AVERY: Brian Shahinian.

8 (Pause)

9 MR. WISEMAN: Hello. I'm Jim Wiseman,
10 W-i-s-e-m-a-n, Superintendent of Recreation for the
11 Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association. Brian
12 unexpectedly couldn't be here. I've submitted a Board of
13 Directors Resolution of Support for the project from the
14 NISRA Board of Directors, and I'll be reading his statement
15 as written.

16 Good morning, and thank you for the
17 opportunity to share my 100 percent support of Centegra
18 Health System's proposed hospital in Huntley, Project No.
19 10-090. My name is Bryan Shahinian, S-h-a-h-i-n-i-a-n, and
20 I've been the Executor Director of the Northern Illinois
21 Special Recreation Association, NISRA for, nearly 24 years.
22 As an extension of 13 local park districts and municipal
23 recreation departments, NISRA provides 750 year-round
24 community, therapeutic recreation programs to over 1,600

1 different children and adults with disabilities. As an
2 agency that provides healthy and therapeutic recreation
3 services to individuals with various physical, cognitive,
4 emotional and medical disabilities, NISRA maintains a
5 working relationship with the healthcare system in McHenry
6 and Kane County.

7 Centegra's commitment to the quality of
8 healthcare extends beyond the physical boundaries of its
9 facilities and into the community through its collaborative
10 values and partnerships with other organizations. In my
11 tenure at NISRA and participating in various health and
12 wellness initiatives, I've personally witnessed the caring,
13 trustworthy, and professional relationships that Centegra
14 has developed with local businesses, not-for-profits,
15 community healthcare agencies, and residents in the county.
16 Centegra has supported public health and wellness services
17 by supporting NISRA and many other service organizations by
18 sponsoring fundraising events, referring patients to
19 community services, and sharing its facility and manpower.
20 Centegra provides exceptional care for patients while in
21 the hospital and connects them with exceptional care in the
22 community upon discharge.

23 Centegra has actively demonstrated its
24 effectiveness and involvement in this community for nearly

1 100 years. Its administrators, medical professionals, and
2 support staff are active members in this community as
3 service club members, community leaders, volunteers and
4 good neighbors. They are personally committed to the
5 overall quality of life in McHenry County and surrounding
6 areas. The health and wellness of a community relies on
7 much more than simply the existence of a local hospital,
8 but rather a healthcare system that is an integral part of
9 the community through outreach, participation and
10 collaboration. This is exactly what Centegra Health System
11 has demonstrated in McHenry County consistently over the
12 years.

13 All of us at NISRA are pleased to have earned
14 the support of Centegra Health System. We look forward to
15 working with Centegra in the future to meet the growing
16 medical, health and wellness needs of southern McHenry and
17 northern Kane County. Again, the Northern Illinois Special
18 Recreation Association is in 100 percent support of
19 Centegra Health System's proposal.

20 Thank you.

21 (Applause)

22 MS. AVERY: We'll take a five-minute break for
23 our Court Reporter.

24 (Recess)

1 MS. AVERY: Nancy Delaware.

2 (Pause)

3 MS. DELAWARE: I am speaking today as a
4 Crystal Lake resident for 40 years. I have watched
5 repeated efforts to bring a hospital to the burgeoning
6 community of Crystal Lake. We had an association at
7 Crystal Lake, Woodstock and McHenry many years ago.
8 McHenry left the group to build a facility in McHenry.
9 Woodstock left to build a hospital in Woodstock. Sherman
10 said they would build an emergency care center to provide
11 services until a full hospital could be built. Crystal
12 Lake disbanded their hospital association because now we
13 would have a hospital. As you know, none of this effort
14 resulted in a hospital in Crystal Lake.

15 I was very excited when I learned that Mercy
16 was bringing in a hospital to Crystal Lake. I joined the
17 organization to be part of that effort. The Health
18 Facilities Board and the City of Crystal Lake said yes.
19 This was good for Crystal Lake. Political maneuvering took
20 away the hospital that Crystal Lake so urgently needed.

21 So, here we are today. The chance to bring a
22 hospital to the heavily-populated Crystal Lake, Algonquin
23 area is within our grasp. I Shutter to think that we
24 citizens of Crystal Lake could once again be denied these

1 services. I do not oppose Centegra-Huntley unless it
2 precludes the opportunity for Crystal Lake to have a
3 hospital after all these years.

4 Building a hospital in Huntley will not reduce
5 wait times in McHenry emergency rooms. Spending hours in
6 the ER, waiting for admission, will not change in McHenry
7 with a facility in Huntley. Having a facility in
8 Barrington has not decreased wait times or increased bed
9 availability in McHenry. Huntley may some day need a
10 hospital, but Crystal Lake needs one now.

11 I am a nurse. I know the importance of
12 minutes in an emergency situation. I have no emergency
13 room less than twenty minutes away, and I live in the most
14 populous city in McHenry County. I have used the immediate
15 care facilities in town and could not get a simple CBC done
16 to determine the state of my illness in an urgent
17 situation. So you see my frustration. I live in the most
18 heavily-populated area of the county with moderately good
19 economics. Healthcare organizations want to be near me
20 because I have insurance and I pay my bills. But no one
21 wants to care for me in my town if I need emergency
22 services or to be hospitalized.

23 I ask that you not let the Huntley needs of
24 the future take away my chance for hospital beds and

1 emergency services now, when I need them in my community.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause)

4 MS. AVERY: Becky Lampe.

5 (Pause)

6 Becky Lampe, L-a-m-p-e.

7 MS. AVERY: I'm sorry to interrupt you before
8 you start. Is it possible we could narrow this down to
9 about two minutes?

10 MS. LAMPE: Yes. She took one look at my
11 letter and said, "Oh, no."

12 All right. I will start -- I'm going to start
13 with 1973. How does that sound.

14 The Jaycees in Algonquin were seeking to start
15 an emergency ambulance service and were looking for
16 volunteers. The local fire department was not interested
17 in this endeavor, so the Jaycees started looking for
18 volunteers. Since I was a Registered Nurse, I became one
19 of those volunteers and thus a charter member of the
20 Algonquin Area Ambulance Service at that time. It's since
21 changed its name. July of 1974 marked the beginning of
22 ambulance service to the two communities. In preparation
23 we had marked the mileage from the intersections of Route
24 31 and Route 62 to each of the existing hospitals where we

1 were going to be able to transport. Those hospitals were
2 Sherman and St. Joseph in Elgin, and they were about 13
3 miles each. They were almost equal distance. And then
4 there was the old Woodstock Hospital up in Woodstock, now
5 South Street, and that was 17 miles. So that was our
6 furthest run.

7 In 1977, that marked the year when the first
8 paramedics went into training at Sherman Hospital from our
9 town, including me. I was a nurse, but there's a whole
10 different ballgame out there when you're a paramedic.
11 Twelve of us graduated and became certified. I served as a
12 volunteer for 25 years.

13 In subsequent years, new hospitals were added
14 to the area. Advocate Good Shepherd in Barrington,
15 Northern Illinois Medical Center, Centegra, on Route 31 in
16 McHenry, while Humana, now Alexian Brothers was in Hoffman
17 Estates, and I do believe that one is just a little bit
18 further than the others, because I know I delivered a baby
19 going over the overpass of I-90. Couldn't quite make it
20 the distance to that hospital. Wasn't my baby. I was
21 doing the delivery of somebody else.

22 Anyhow, the hospital -- from '86 to 2001 I
23 worked as a Corporate Occupational Health Nurse for Arnold
24 Engineering in Marengo, Illinois. The closest hospital for

1 anyone to seek care was in Belvidere, 12 miles to the west,
2 or St. Anthony in Rockford; that was 24 miles. I -- when
3 they closed the hospital in Belvidere, then those people in
4 Marengo, their run to get to St. Anthony would be a good
5 24-mile drive out there.

6 With the positions of the new
7 Centegra-Woodstock location on Route 14, then there was
8 another option. So it was a little bit closer, but from
9 the corporate area to that hospital, it was still 14 miles.
10 A new hospital located near Route 47 corridor -- which I
11 consider this, in my experienced opinion, would make good
12 obvious sense -- would give access to hospital medical care
13 to an entire geographical area not being served at the
14 present time. My children and grandchildren live in Union,
15 Illinois, just a few miles east of Marengo, a few miles
16 west of Huntley, and for their sake and all the residents
17 of the southern part of McHenry County or the northern
18 portion of Kane County, I am supporting the location of a
19 new hospital in Huntley.

20 In 2003, I began working part-time as a
21 Registered Nurse with Wellness Group of Centegra Health
22 System and continue at the present time to do so. I've
23 examined my own feelings, since I am employed by Centegra,
24 to see if my support might be prejudiced in their favor. I

1 have determined that it would not make a difference whether
2 I worked for them or not. I truly believe the location of
3 a new hospital in McHenry County must be in Huntley, due to
4 its geographical location, the Route 47 corridor, and the
5 medical needs of the residents not currently being served.

6 (Applause).

7 MS. AVERY: Clayton Ciha.

8 (Pause)

9 MR. CIHA: Good afternoon. I'm Clay Ciha.
10 I'm with the Alexian Brothers Neurosciences Institute. I'm
11 the Administrative Director.

12 I'd like to talk to you today about the type
13 of specialized care we offer at Alexian Brothers and why
14 that care is endangered if there is a redundancy of
15 healthcare in this region. I direct all brain-related
16 services at two hospitals in the Alexian Brothers Hospital
17 Network. These programs include acute stroke care,
18 pediatric neurosurgery, magnetoencephalography, epilepsy,
19 interventional neuroradiology and Stereotactic
20 neurosurgery. That's also known as Gamma Knife. We also
21 have two outpatient offices. One is at St. Alexius campus
22 in Hoffman Estates, near the intersection of I-90 and
23 Barrington Road. Because of that location, we are able to
24 serve the far northwest suburbs, including McHenry County.

1 We offer outpatient services for stroke, memory disorders,
2 movement disorders, neuropsychology and epilepsy. Our
3 clinical research trials department tests medications for
4 illnesses, such as Alzheimer's Disease and Multiple
5 Sclerosis.

6 Alexian Brothers devotes a tremendous amount
7 of resources in both personnel and technology to the
8 institute. Our technology must keep up with the ever
9 changing world of neurological research and treatment, and
10 we go head-to-head with medical centers across the nation
11 to recruit the small number of doctors who excel in the
12 neurological field.

13 Because of the nature of these specialized
14 types of care we have to rely upon and serve a large
15 geographic area. In order to build a strong practice and
16 invest in the best physicians and technology, we need to
17 draw patients from the entire far northwest suburban region
18 for care at our hospital system. That's why Centegra's
19 proposal to build a hospital in McHenry County would
20 undermine not only St. Alexius but also our Neurosciences
21 Institute. It would bring an unnecessary duplication of
22 services to the region.

23 Centegra's desire to build a basic,
24 limited-service hospital is a real threat to St. Alexius

1 and our specialty Neurosciences Institute services. More
2 than 10 percent of St. Alexius patients come from the
3 far -- from the southeastern McHenry County. These
4 patients are a short drive away from us and rely on us to
5 provide comprehensive medical care, including advance
6 neurosciences. St. Alexius is just one of the regional
7 medical centers that serves this area and would be hurt by
8 this new hospital.

9 I ask the Board to consider the major negative
10 ramifications that this new Centegra Hospital would cause
11 and deny the Certificate of Need. We have a great regional
12 medical system right now. Let's not make it weaker and
13 more costly to everyone.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause)

16 MS. AVERY: Tom Halat.

17 (Pause)

18 MR. HALAT: Good afternoon. Madam Chairlady,
19 Courtney, thank you for allowing me to speak here today.

20 I am a resident of Huntley community area and
21 a business man. The Centegra Hospital and Centegra Health
22 campus in Huntley is most logical location for a hospital.
23 I own Tom's Farm Market next door to the proposed Centegra
24 hospital, Huntley site. A few years ago my wife and I sold

1 part of our farm to Centegra Health Systems to build a
2 health campus, back in 2006. Centegra at that time had the
3 foresight to acquire sufficient land not only for their
4 Health Bridge Fitness Center, immediate care center and a
5 future hospital. Even at that time, Centegra had the
6 vision for this community, and they are invested in making
7 sure that the best care is available where it is most
8 needed in our community.

9 This location, the southeast corner of McHenry
10 County will fill a void and have close access to the 8 to
11 9,000 residents in the age-restricted community of Del
12 Webb. As you cross over the county line to the south into
13 northern Kane County, it will fill a void in several of the
14 communities in that area. This proposed location for the
15 hospital is in the heart of a hundred percent residential
16 area and the most fitting place to satisfy the needs of the
17 community around it.

18 The demographics do warrant a new hospital in
19 Huntley, and Centegra Health Systems is the organization to
20 do it. Working on a farm next door to the current Huntley
21 Health campus has resulted in several trips of myself to
22 the immediate care center, being a farmer. Centegra has
23 taken great care of us and treats us like family. They
24 have been a great neighbor, and selling our land to

1 Centegra was the most right decision my wife and I have
2 ever made. We never had no reservations.

3 I have been impressed with the Centegra
4 leadership, as you have heard today, and they have a vision
5 to constantly, constantly improve the quality and access of
6 healthcare in this area. I support this organization that
7 has taken care of my family and my community. I want to
8 see all of my family and friends live long, healthy lives,
9 and Centegra has invested in that same dream, and I say
10 this from the bottom of my heart. They have become part of
11 my family, just like they have become part of your family,
12 not just because of our relationship with the sale of the
13 land, but they are family.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause)

16 MS. AVERY: Dr. Giangrasso.

17 (Pause)

18 MS. ZUIDEMA: Good afternoon. My name is
19 Julia Zuidema, Z-u-i-d-e-m-a, and I'll be reading a
20 statement on behalf of Dr. Giangrasso.

21 Dear Board Members and Participants: My name
22 is Dr. Giangrasso, and I'm the Medical Director of
23 Emergency Medicine at Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital in
24 Barrington, less than one mile from McHenry County. Due to

1 another commitment, I'm not able to attend the hearing but
2 wanted to make my views heard.

3 There is already sufficient emergency
4 department services in McHenry to well serve the current
5 and future population, and we do not need additional
6 emergency departments in McHenry County. Building
7 expensive, new in-patient facilities with emergency
8 departments is an expensive proposition. My department is
9 proud to serve McHenry County patients every day, both
10 through the hospital's emergency room and Good Shepherd's
11 Immediate care system in Crystal Lake.

12 Existing hospitals in the are have more than
13 enough capacity to serve the emergency needs of McHenry
14 County residents. Last year Good Shepherd was able to
15 serve additional emergency patients 99.9 percent of the
16 time. This means that we were rarely on bypass and for
17 only 5 hours all year had to direct ambulances to other
18 hospitals due to capacity constraints in the emergency
19 department. Three hospitals serving the area were not on
20 bypass at all during 2010, including Centegra-McHenry,
21 Alexian Brothers, Northwest Community. Three other
22 hospitals, Centegra-Woodstock, St. Alexius, and Sherman,
23 averaged only 10 hours on bypass for the entire year.
24 Existing hospitals, such as Good Shepherd and Centegra,

1 also provide urgent care at their five immediate care
2 centers and various ambulatory centers located throughout
3 McHenry County. Over 85 percent of the patients seen in
4 our Crystal Lake immediate care center by Board-certified
5 emergency medicine physicians are McHenry residents. They
6 have chosen to receive their care in our immediate care
7 setting rather than seeking care in one of the three
8 emergency departments. This is not because existing
9 hospital emergency departments are at capacity but rather
10 they recognize that they can receive this care in a
11 non-hospital based setting.

12 I'm also concerned at the limited number of
13 services that will be provided at the proposed hospital and
14 how that will impact patient care. Patients experiencing
15 life-threatening symptoms, such as heart attack or stroke,
16 will have to be stabilized at the proposed hospital and
17 then be transferred to a full-service hospital that can
18 service these patients. Patients would be better served by
19 bypassing this hospital and going straight to the facility
20 that can handle all of their needs, without having to
21 transfer them.

22 In summary, I urge the Board to reject this
23 application as it will be an expensive duplication of
24 services that are not needed. My department and I look

1 forward to continuing to serve the acute needs of McHenry

2 County Residents. Sincerely Dr. Joe Giangrasso.

3 (Applause)

4 MS. AVERY: Cynthia Amore.

5 (Pause)

6 MS. AMORE: My name is Cindy, A-m-o-r-e, and

7 I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to share my

8 support for the Centegra Hospital-Huntley project.

9 I've had the good fortune to work within
10 McHenry County for the past 32 years. During that time, my
11 career as afforded me the opportunity to work with
12 community emergency responders throughout this area. In my
13 role as EMS System Coordinator, I've worked to support area
14 EMS responders, both EMT's and paramedics, as they acquire
15 and maintain the skills necessary in providing prompt
16 access to respond to everyday emergencies. The training
17 and equipment they use assists them in evaluating patients'
18 physical conditions, providing appropriate and timely
19 transfer to the closest hospital full-service emergency
20 department. The goal is access to definitive care.

21 The key to successful outcomes, as we've heard
22 already today, is prompt assessment, timely transport, and
23 arrival to that comprehensive emergency department.

24 Centegra Health System has made a commitment to the

1 community throughout McHenry County to provide access to
2 quality emergency care by providing two hospitals with
3 comprehensive emergency department services, two Level II
4 trauma centers, access to critical care emergency transport
5 through the sponsorship of Flight for Life, and maintaining
6 a commitment to EMS as a resource hospital with the
7 Illinois Department of Public Health.

8 In addition, a hospital to serve the
9 communities of southwestern McHenry County will continue to
10 provide this service in an area that currently experiences
11 longer transport times for EMS patients in both medical and
12 trauma scenarios. The greater Huntley area does continue
13 to grow in population. The Centegra Hospital-Huntley will
14 provide them with access to emergency care that is
15 consistent with the other services available to other
16 residents in McHenry County. I ask that you vote in
17 support of the Huntley CON.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause)

20 MS. AVERY: Marilyn Parenzan.

21 MS. PARENZAN: Hello. My name is Marilyn
22 Parenzan, P-a-r-e-n-z-a-n. I'm the Director of Quality and
23 Patient Safety at Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital in
24 Barrington.

1 This project will dilute volumes among
2 hospitals that will negatively impact patient quality and
3 patient safety. There are numerous studies by the Agency
4 for Healthcare Research and Quality and the Institute of
5 Medicine, demonstrating that hospitals with higher volumes
6 of particular cases tend to have better outcomes than those
7 hospitals with lower volumes. This proposed hospital will
8 add nearly 50 percent more beds to McHenry County.

9 As you know, our hospital is located less than
10 one mile away from McHenry County. There is little doubt
11 that adding another hospital with that many beds in the
12 region will negatively impact the volumes of area hospitals
13 and may impact quality of care. Clinical staff need
14 adequate patient care experience to maintain their
15 competencies. I'm sure that when Sherman forecasted their
16 volumes for their new hospital, and St. Joseph their
17 volumes for their new bed tower, and St. Alexius for their
18 new children's hospital, they forecasted those volumes not
19 only for financial reasons but also to ensure adequate
20 staffing and training of staff. This proposed hospital
21 would jeopardize those financial and staffing projections.

22 It's important for McHenry County residents to
23 feel like they have adequate access to healthcare
24 resources, but it's more important that residents feel that

1 they have access to quality healthcare resources. There is
2 bed capacity at both Centegra Hospitals and the Mercy
3 Hospital in Harvard. A more prudent approach would be to
4 add beds to these facilities. To summarize, one purpose
5 for the Review Board looking at utilization and the
6 appropriate allocation of resources is to ensure quality
7 care. Approval of this project may jeopardize that care,
8 because it will significantly dilute volumes across a
9 number of hospitals. I urge the Board to deny this
10 proposal.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause)

13 MS. AVERY: Angela McAuley.

14 MS. MCAULEY: My name is Angela McAuley,
15 M-c-a-u-l-e-y. I'm not going to talk about statistics and
16 I'm going to be brief, but I do have a specific area of the
17 project that I would like to talk about.

18 I'm here to share my support for Centegra's
19 plans for Centegra Hospital-Huntley. There is no doubt
20 from our review of this -- of the needs of that area that
21 this application should be approved. I am currently a
22 Board Member at Centegra Hospital, and I am a former
23 employee for over three decades. During that time, I held
24 the role of Senior Vice-President of Women's Services, and

1 that's the area I really want to talk to you about.

2 I have a deep understanding of healthcare, and
3 I certainly understand how it has changed over the years.
4 This area is a particular interest to me, and I was part of
5 that initial project that we had approved back in July of
6 2008 that we were unable to move forward with. Many
7 aspects of that same project are going to be incorporated
8 into our new plan. I can't think of a better resource for
9 women in this area. A space devoted to women will help
10 patients feel as comfortable as possible while undergoing
11 tests and treatments that are really uncomfortable in
12 nature. Women want and they embrace privacy. This area of
13 the hospital will have a private entrance, and all those
14 needs will be taken into consideration in the plan.

15 Perhaps more importantly, it is a great way to
16 advance collaboration among the medical practitioners who
17 work with women. This is really a terrific aspect of this
18 project, and it shows Centegra to be very forward thinking.
19 Currently, there is no dedicated women's center in this
20 area. We recognize that value. The number of admissions
21 going into hospitals all over the county -- women are over
22 50 percent of all admissions that are going into hospitals,
23 and we need to look at their needs.

24 I've had various positions at Centegra, but I

1 certainly understand this organization's loyalty to the
2 people it serves. The residents of Huntley and the
3 surrounding areas deserve this level of commitment. I
4 began my career at Centegra as a part-time Registered Nurse
5 on nights when my children were little. In that role and
6 the various roles I've had within this organization, I have
7 learned the contagious dedication of the staff and
8 leadership within it. These leaders are involved in the
9 communities they serve on all levels.

10 I support this project wholeheartedly, as do
11 my neighbors, and based on the understanding of the State
12 Rules, I know that you both support it also.

13 Thank you.

14 (Applause)

15 MS. AVERY: Claudia Larsen.

16 (Pause)

17 MS. LARSEN: Thank you. My name is Claudia
18 Larsen, L-a-r-s-e-n, and as the Executive Director of
19 Sherman Health's four immediate care centers, I'm very
20 familiar with the healthcare services available in this
21 area by Sherman, as well as by other area providers.

22 Today you are hearing a lot about the six
23 hospitals that serve this region and the high level of
24 in-patient care that is available to the residents of

1 Huntley and other nearby areas. What you haven't heard
2 much about is that those hospitals offer a network of
3 urgent care centers and other outpatient facilities to meet
4 the residents' outpatient, healthcare needs. While many of
5 the smaller communities like Huntley don't warrant an
6 in-patient facility, existing providers in that community,
7 like Sherman, have ensured that a network of adequate
8 outpatient services are available close to home for the
9 residents of the Fox Valley and nearby communities. There
10 are four immediate care centers within eight minutes of the
11 proposed hospital in Huntley, and sites that provide
12 routine, specialized, and urgent physician care. Imaging
13 and other diagnostic and treatment services exist
14 throughout all of the populated area of McHenry County.

15 Additionally, there are eight immediate care
16 centers within the proposed hospital's primary service
17 area. Residents of Huntley and the surrounding area go to
18 these immediate care centers for treatment of
19 non-life-threatening injuries and minor illnesses, such as
20 broken bones, cuts, burns, flu-like symptoms, and earaches,
21 and often an immediate care system can treat you faster
22 than if you went to an emergency room. Additionally, other
23 types of outpatient care offerings in McHenry County
24 provide many other services beyond urgent care, such as

1 sophisticated imaging services, other diagnostic testing,
2 and a variety of therapies, health screenings, women
3 healthcare services, including mammography, vascular
4 screenings, and a whole host of other services.

5 The location of this hospital proposal is the
6 site of a currently-open immediate care center, with
7 medical imaging and lab services, as well as Health Bridge
8 Fitness Center. The hospital proposed will be a
9 limited-service hospital that provides routine care. When
10 patients have major healthcare concerns and treatment needs
11 for life-threatening injuries, they want to go to a
12 hospital that can treat all of their needs from emergency
13 care to heart surgery, cancer treatments, and stroke
14 rehabilitation. You can receive all of these specialty
15 services, plus routine healthcare, at Sherman's new
16 hospital, a mere 12 miles from Centegra's proposed site.

17 A patient wants to get the best healthcare
18 when their health and life are at stake. Traveling to
19 Sherman to save one's life is hardly a compromise or a
20 health threat, and here in the metro Chicago, people are
21 happy to have a host of options that the academic medical
22 centers and other specialty institutions provide, even if
23 it means traveling an hour or more. McHenry County
24 residents are in good hands with the existing local

1 hospitals and the resources in the region.

2 I am here today to oppose Centegra's proposal
3 to build a limited-service hospital in Huntley, because I
4 believe the area already has a strong network of in-patient
5 facilities, immediate care and other outpatient facilities
6 and doctor's offices.

7 Thank you for your time.

8 (Applause)

9 MS. AVERY: Jennifer Whitwell.

10 MS. WHITWELL: I'm here as a resident of
11 McHenry, Illinois, and I do not understand why Centegra
12 would build a hospital in Huntley when the population does
13 not support it. Their idea is to wait a few years so the
14 population can grow enough to support the project.

15 The Crystal Lake area has had the greatest
16 need for a hospital in McHenry County. There are at least
17 160,000 residents in the southeast part of McHenry County
18 that would benefit from a hospital in Crystal Lake. The
19 need for a Crystal Lake hospital is now. Mercy does not
20 need to wait for the population to grow to support their
21 project.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause)

24 MS. AVERY: Laura Dickman.

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(Pause)

MS. DICKMAN: My name is Laura Dickman, D-i-c-k-m-a-n. I'm here as an RN in the community. It is not my intent to stand up here and badmouth any healthcare organization, as I think it decreases one's credibility. I'm here hoping and believing that all the healthcare systems -- their intent is to provide quality and timely healthcare to patients and their families.

I believe that the Centegra location is the wrong project at the wrong time right now. As a former ER nurse at the Centegra-McHenry facility, I can tell you from experience how busy it is, the amount of times we were either on bypass or we were holding patients for in-patient admissions due to the lack of beds available for those patients to go upstairs, and that caused ER patients access to care, it clogged the ER, and it caused staffing problems. One of the biggest EMS providers affected by that was the Crystal Lake EMS services.

Therefore, I know the direct need for a hospital in Crystal Lake, and I'm asking you to please deny the proposal of Centegra Hospital in Huntley, as it's the wrong proposal in the wrong location.

(Applause)

MS. AVERY: Valerie Johns.

1 (Pause)

2 MS. JOHNS: Good afternoon. My name is
3 Valerie Johns, J-o-h-n-s. I'm Director at Mercy Woodstock
4 Medical Center. I am a nurse, and above all, I am a
5 resident of Woodstock, Illinois in McHenry County.

6 I too want to congratulate Centegra for
7 finally realizing that new hospital beds are needed in
8 McHenry County. The problem is they are proposing it for
9 an area with insufficient population to support it now, in
10 hopes of optimum growth down the road. I also oppose
11 Centegra or any healthcare organization in creating a
12 monopoly and taking choice away from patients. A monopoly
13 such as they are proposing will reduce the quality of
14 healthcare services and not support competition.
15 Competition drives quality.

16 I recently had two family members who were
17 recent patients at Centegra, and because their experiences
18 were less than ideal, I want to recommend that Centegra use
19 their \$233 million to provide and to fix their facilities
20 by providing private rooms and improving the quality of
21 care before they proceed in building a new facility.

22 I oppose Centegra's project and request the
23 Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to
24 deny their project.

1 Thank you.

2 (Applause)

3 MS. AVERY: Robert Rosenberger.

4 (Pause)

5 MR. ROSENBERGER: Good afternoon. My name is
6 Robert Rosenberger, R-o-s-e-n-b-e-r-g-e-r. I'm the Chief
7 Financial Officer with Centegra Health System. I'm here
8 today to show my support for Centegra's application for
9 Centegra Hospital-Huntley.

10 As you can imagine, Centegra devoted a
11 substantial amount of time to planning Centegra
12 Hospital-Huntley. From the beginning, we identified a
13 significant need for additional healthcare services serving
14 the southern portion of the county. As you've already
15 heard, the State's own health planning data identifies
16 McHenry County as having the highest bed need of any
17 Planning Area in the state, the highest rate of residents
18 leaving the county for healthcare, and the second highest
19 utilization rate at its existing hospitals. The
20 combination of those factors made it clear that the time is
21 right for the Centegra proposal.

22 As part of our due diligence, we considered a
23 range of options. One possibility we discussed was adding
24 more beds to our current campuses in McHenry and Woodstock,

1 but it is clear that this option does nothing to address
2 the access to care issues for residents of southern McHenry
3 County and northern Kane County. The best answer to the
4 problem of healthcare access would be to build a
5 full-service hospital on our current Huntley campus. By
6 building the new hospital, we will create efficiencies that
7 will benefit the people we serve, as well as Centegra, for
8 years to come.

9 Centegra's success comes from the way our
10 organization is centralized. By operating as a unified
11 system with leadership that oversees all of its entities,
12 Centegra spreads fixed costs over large patient population.
13 Adding another hospital to the system will allow us to
14 share costs even more, which will again increase the
15 efficiency which have been noted by a number of opponents
16 to the project so far today. In order to create these same
17 efficiencies, many other Illinois hospital systems are
18 combining to share costs. Centegra already understands the
19 importance of this process, and we know that Centegra
20 Hospital-Huntley would do more than just meet the
21 healthcare needs of our patients. It would also help our
22 other hospitals carry the financial burden of providing
23 care to the people of the region. Where many Illinois
24 healthcare systems are merging to improve efficiencies,

1 Centegra has to examine its own market. There are still
2 people living in our region who are under served, and that
3 is why Huntley is the right location for a new hospital.

4 As a CFO, I am proud that our project will be
5 a boon to the region during these difficult economic times.
6 We anticipate that the construction of the Centegra
7 Hospital-Huntley will have a total economic impact of \$152
8 million on area communities. We have expect to employ an
9 additional 1,100 new associates for the new hospital.

10 And, finally, as we look to the future, we
11 must also consider the effects of healthcare reform in our
12 area. If an estimated 30 million people in the United
13 States will not have access to healthcare because of new
14 health insurance and exchanges, surely that will affect the
15 people of McHenry County. We must put healthcare services
16 where they belong and focus on creating efficient
17 cost-effective systems. We will do just that with respect
18 to our plans for Centegra Hospital-Huntley.

19 I ask you to approve this project. Thank you.

20 (Applause)

21 MS. AVERY: Mike Ploszek.

22 MR. PLOSZEK: Good afternoon. My name is Mike
23 Ploszek, and that is P-l-o-s-z-e-k. I'm the Vice-President
24 of Ambulatory Services and Community Strategy at Advocate

1 Good Shepherd Hospital in Barrington. Our hospital is
2 located a mere 4,200 feet to the east of McHenry County
3 line.

4 Good Shepherd has a proud tradition of serving
5 the residents of McHenry County through both in-patient and
6 outpatient services. Nearly half of Good Shepherd's
7 patients live in McHenry County and choose to cross the
8 county border to receive services at our hospital. Good
9 Shepherd also does extensive outreach efforts and community
10 collaboration in McHenry County, as does Sherman, Provena
11 and St. Alexius. We connect through outpatient facilities,
12 free screenings, and community involvement. Specifically,
13 we have representation on 13 McHenry County organization
14 boards with employees serving in 19 seats on those
15 committees.

16 Over the last three years, Advocate Good
17 Shepherd Hospital has provided 18,197 screenings at no cost
18 to McHenry County residents. In the most recent three-year
19 period of 2008 through 2010, 76,528 county residents
20 attended Good Shepherd community outreach programs and
21 activities that were delivered within the boundaries of
22 McHenry County, and Good Shepherd continues to partner with
23 numerous community organizations to meet the health needs
24 of the county. Notably, the McHenry County Health

1 Coalition, who we have supported over the past seven years,
2 recently making a five-figure contribution to help
3 underwrite to meet the most recent county health-needs
4 survey. We are also one of the largest employers in the
5 area, and half of our employees are from McHenry County.
6 We're proud that they have chosen to make Good Shepherd
7 their employer.

8 A lot of attention has been paid to all of the
9 new jobs that will be created by the approval of this
10 hospital, and it is true that a lot of construction jobs
11 will be created through the building of this. However,
12 it's incorrect to assume that a number of permanent jobs
13 will be created by the opening of a brand new hospital.
14 Should it be allowed to open, this hospital would increase
15 the number of in-patient beds in McHenry County by 50
16 percent. That means Centegra will have to find 50 percent
17 more nurses, surgical techs, and other skilled positions.
18 It is widely reported that a nursing shortage is looming
19 ahead for the healthcare industry in the not-so-distant
20 future. Where is Centegra going to find all of the people
21 to fill these positions? My fear is that they will have to
22 shuffle positions from their own hospitals and poach
23 employees at nearby hospitals. This will only hurt the
24 quality of healthcare in the area at all hospitals.

1 In reviewing Centegra's request, while they
2 are seeking approval from the Board at the May hearing,
3 they state in the application they will not start
4 construction until the fall of 2012. If the demand is so
5 great, why are they waiting so long to start construction?
6 I urge the Board to deny this application for a new
7 hospital in Huntley, because these residents already have
8 access to the very best quality healthcare.

9 We thank the countless McHenry County
10 residents who make Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital their
11 hospital of choice for healthcare or employment.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause)

14 MS. AVERY: Barbara Johnson.

15 (Pause)

16 MS. JOHNSON: I'm Barbara Johnson,
17 B-a-r-b-a-r-a, J-o-h-n-s-o-n, and I've been the Senior
18 Vice-President of Human Resources Development for Centegra
19 Health System for over nine years. I currently am on the
20 Work Force Investment Board, and also have been the chair
21 of LGMC for two years. Thank you for allowing me to share
22 my support for this project.

23 One of the factors that's critical to a new
24 hospital is staffing, and it's also in the area where

1 Centegra is extremely well-positioned for success. Our
2 reputation in this professional sector, our recruiting
3 processes, and our retention of current staff ensure that
4 we can support a new hospital with a talented work force
5 and a strong culture of clinical and service excellence.

6 Centegra Health System is the largest employer
7 in McHenry County. It maintains a reputation as a great
8 place to work both within our community and beyond. We
9 have been nationally recognized by Modern Healthcare for
10 the past two years as a great place to work in healthcare,
11 and by AARP for five consecutive years as an employer of
12 choice. In our last Association Opinion Survey, conducted
13 by Great Place To Work Institute, 9 out of 10 associates
14 strongly agreed Centegra is a great place to work. We also
15 rank high in associate retention and satisfaction when
16 compared to national benchmarks.

17 This reputation, based on trust, camaraderie
18 and pride, makes Centegra a destination of choice. Proof
19 of our reputation can be seen in the success in attracting
20 candidates. During the past 12 months, we received 7,506
21 applications for 365 positions. The pride and support of
22 our current associates, who will play a critical role in
23 assimilating the new work force, extends beyond their jobs.
24 39 percent of our new hires in the last year were referred

1 by our current associates.

2 Centegra's recruiting strategies and processes
3 further bolster our ability to staff a new facility. We
4 collaborate with over 40 colleges to host clinical
5 rotations and shadowing experiences for nursing students.
6 As a result, we have a waiting list for new graduates.
7 These students have already experienced what it is to work
8 at Centegra and have already demonstrated the clinical and
9 personal talents that lead to exceptional patient care, and
10 they are poised to become part of our staff. We also offer
11 shadowing experiences and partner with McHenry County
12 College to conduct a Healthcare Careers Exploration class
13 each semester. All of these recruiting strategies enhance
14 our ability to enlist top talent, even as shortages
15 threaten nationally.

16 As I mentioned earlier, our existing
17 associates play a critical role in recruitment of our top
18 talent. They also provide an extremely stable work force.
19 Centegra takes pride in a 95.8 percent retention rate for
20 fiscal year 2010 and an overall vacancy rate of 2.4
21 percent, in comparison to Chicagoland market of 4 percent.
22 Because of this vacancy, we have unlimited waiting lists,
23 and our nurses have not been -- have the ability to be able
24 to be hired in the future. The nursing vacancy rate is

1 even more impressive. It's 1.1 percent, in comparison to
2 the Chicago 4 percent. The stability of our current staff
3 will allow us to focus on obtaining the staff needed for
4 the future.

5 To summarize, Centegra both attracts
6 healthcare talent and retains it. Our associates feel like
7 they make a difference. They consider Centegra Health
8 System a great place to work and spread our culture of
9 service throughout our community. Our reputation,
10 recruiting processes, and retention of talented and giving
11 professionals create a strong plan for success to not only
12 staff the proposed Huntley facility, but to staff it with
13 professionals who deliver service and clinical excellence.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause)

16 MS. AVERY: Is there anyone else that is just
17 representing themselves as a citizen of the catchment area,
18 of the health service area?

19 (Pause)

20 MS. AVERY: Chris Huecksteadt.

21 (Pause)

22 MR. HUECKSTEADT: I will be very brief. I am
23 hungry and tired. My name is Chris Huecksteadt,
24 H-u-e-c-k-s-t-e-a-d-t, and I'm from a company called

1 Metrostudy. We're a housing market research and
2 demographics firm. Metrostudy conducts quarterly household
3 growth surveys in the Chicago region, focusing on
4 development patterns and household growth in the area. I
5 would also like to point out I'm not necessarily a member
6 of either team here. I'm just here representing
7 demographic accuracy in the region. I'm here today merely
8 to provide an overview of actual household growth patterns
9 in the primary service area.

10 For example, many here would be surprised to
11 learn that in 2010 McHenry County ranked seventh of the
12 nine counties that make up the Chicago CPSA in terms of
13 household growth. You know, within the PSA, the Primary
14 Service Area, there were just over 22,000 new households
15 and 65,000 people added from 2000 to 2010. Indeed,
16 explosive growth. However, it should be noted that 81
17 percent of that growth occurred from the years 2001 to
18 2006. During that time frame, this region averaged roughly
19 2,700 new household formations in the region, and all of
20 this occurred during what was the biggest housing boom in
21 this nation's history.

22 Since that time, from 2007 to 2010, the region
23 averaged just 900 new household formations per year, and
24 more recently, in 2009 and 2010, there were just 500 and

1 350 household formations respectively.

2 Now, this would indicate a rapid slowing in
3 the rate of household growth within the PSA. Any forecast
4 that would project population and household growth must
5 take current market conditions into consideration. The
6 demographic forecast put forth by many national and state
7 entities foresee the addition of 22,000 people and nearly
8 7,200 households in this region by 2015. That equates to
9 an average growth rate of 4,400 people and nearly 1,500
10 households per year. According to our surveys that we have
11 conducted, these projections are inaccurate.

12 Based on current trends in the Chicagoland
13 economy, most notably the lack of job growth and the severe
14 downturn in the housing market, it is likely that this
15 region will average from 500 to 800 new household
16 formations over the next five years, through 2015. That
17 would equate to just 1,500, 2,400 new persons in the area.

18 Any undertaking depending on household growth
19 in the trade area needs to consider, the growth experienced
20 in the market from 2000 to 2006 is not necessarily
21 indicative of growth from 2000 to 2010, nor is it
22 indicative of growth that is forecast for 2010 to 2015.
23 So, my only point is that when making this very important
24 decision based on demographic growth and development

1 patterns, that a more accurate assessment be undertaken to
2 forecast actual growth in the trade area that has occurred
3 over the past four and five years, as well as moving
4 forward in the next four years.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause)

7 MS. AVERY: Is there anyone here who has not
8 had an opportunity to speak that would like to speak?

9 (Pause)

10 MS. AVERY: If you want to submit written, it
11 will still be in the record and will be read by the Board.
12 It does not have to be oral testimony.

13 (Pause)

14 MR. VALENTINE: My name is Steve Valentine,
15 V-a-l-e-n-t-i-n-e. I'm the President of the healthcare
16 consulting company, the Camden Group. We're a national
17 company that looks at bed need and forecasts and gives
18 presentations around the country regarding matters like
19 you're hearing today. I'm speaking at the request of
20 Sherman Health, which is opposing the need for Project
21 10-090 Centegra Hospital-Huntley. My testimony provides a
22 national perspective on the impact of healthcare reform and
23 value-based healthcare utilization trends and bed-need
24 calculations, including the determination of need for this

1 project.

2 As payment reform moves towards more
3 outcomes-based payment -- meaning bundled payments,
4 pay-for-performance, accountable care organizations --
5 Legislation is aimed at creating clinically integrated care
6 delivery models and reimbursement. Traditional utilization
7 studies and vending calculations, like using your health
8 plan, are now obsolete, and they're becoming more so as
9 healthcare continues the movement towards value-based care
10 delivery over traditional and volume-driven care, which is
11 what the model is based on today. A case in point are the
12 findings of the impact on utilization of health reform in
13 Massachusetts. Treatment intensity as measured by the
14 length of hospital stays has decreased. Hospital
15 in-patient admissions for treating preventable conditions
16 also has fallen by over three percentage points in just a
17 year. The emergence of patient-centered medical homes,
18 bundled payments, clinical integration, and accountable
19 care organizations are directing the organization and
20 delivery of healthcare away from traditional
21 hospital-based, volume-based models. In the next few
22 years, providers will begin to experience the impact from
23 this paradigm shift in care delivery and reimbursement away
24 from in-patient, acute care, hospital-driven delivery

1 systems towards one that is more clinically integrated,
2 coordinated, and ambulatory-based. Examples of where this
3 change has occurred include Brown & Toland in San
4 Francisco, California, Greater Rochester IPA, GRIPA, in
5 Rochester, New York, and Advocate Healthcare here in Oak
6 Brook, Illinois.

7 These trends are also supported by the latest
8 future trend reports published by leading national
9 healthcare research firms. SG2 forecasts health reform
10 will result in a decline in in-patient utilization and
11 increase in outpatient utilization. The HFMA report --
12 Ambulatory Stands Out Under Reform -- states that
13 in-patient utilization and margins have stagnated and the
14 rate of in-patient admissions will decline by approximately
15 10 percent over the next few years. A recent Thompson
16 Reuters report notes the demand for outpatient services
17 will grow and ambulatory care will be prioritized as a
18 result of payment reform. The Advisory Board issued a
19 report last year that discussed the changing role of the
20 acute care model and the reduction in in-patient
21 utilization that's likely to result. The Advisory Board
22 notes that in-patient admissions were already deteriorating
23 before the worse downturn of the economy. In addition,
24 Pay-for-Performance initiatives are targeting cuts on

1 hospital-based care, making specialty care less lucrative.

2 The emergency of new care delivery and payment
3 models reflect this trend toward value over volume
4 incentives. Pay-for-Performance, bundled payment programs,
5 will drive further physician alignment and collaboration as
6 a mechanism to improve efficiency and improve overall
7 quality by moving beneficiaries to participate in acute
8 care episode demonstration providers.

9 MS. AVERY: One minute, sir.

10 MR. VALENTINE: The goal of these programs is
11 to reduce or stabilize growing costs to Medicare for acute
12 care services by maximizing the use of available capacity
13 in high quality providers.

14 Insurers have also made a move towards global
15 payment and value-based reimbursement. Blue Shield and
16 Blue Cross Massachusetts is driving a move toward global
17 payments. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois and
18 Advocate Health Care signed an accountable care agreement
19 to improve performance and delivery of quality healthcare
20 services.

21 In summary, the traditional volume-based
22 demand and utilization projection methodologies used today
23 do not account for these innovations in care delivery and
24 payment models. These models focus on chronic disease

1 management and care coordination that are designed to keep
2 patients out of the higher cost of the acute care setting.
3 Decision making based on this outdated approach will result
4 in a overestimation of future in-patient need.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause)

7 MS. AVERY: You can make a statement real
8 quick.

9 MR. LAWLER: Can I spell my name? Dan Lawler,
10 L-a-w-l-e-r, with the law firm of K & L Gates. We
11 represent Centegra on the project.

12 I appreciate all of the people who have
13 submitted their written testimony in lieu of oral
14 testimony. We probably have about 50 speakers on our side
15 who are in the interest of completing the project and
16 allowing everybody who wants to speak to speak, who have
17 just submitted and are not speaking, and I understand that
18 also my colleague who is representing Advocate also have a
19 number on their side that also will submit written
20 testimony on their side.

21 MS. AVERY: Which will be put into the record
22 and will reach Board Members.

23 Thank you.

24 MR. SCIARRO: My name is Jason Sciarro,

1 S-c-i-a-r-r-o. I'm the President and Chief Operating
2 Officer for Centegra Health System.

3 First, before I start, I would like to thank
4 you, Ms. Avery and Mr. Urso, for your time for facilitating
5 today's sessions and the large crowd of supporters that we
6 had. I know they were quite unruly, but you facilitated it
7 well, and we appreciate your flexibility.

8 I would like to address a couple of the issues
9 that have been raised today. One, the proposed Centegra
10 Hospital-Huntley has been defined by opposition as a
11 limited-service hospital. This is sad that my colleagues
12 in healthcare have positioned this as such.

13 Community hospitals are the backbone of health
14 services for suburban and rural communities across the
15 country. The proximity to care is extremely important and
16 arguably the most important factor in determining a patient
17 outcome. Centegra Hospital-Huntley will be a Level II
18 trauma center and provide the proximity to care that is
19 necessary for this fast-growing McHenry County region.

20 Both Centegra Hospital-McHenry and Centegra
21 Hospital-Woodstock have achieved national accreditation for
22 chest pain services. Centegra Hospital-Huntley will follow
23 this trend. In fact, there are only 11 hospitals in the
24 state of Illinois that currently have this designation.

1 Besides Centegra, no other hospital represented in this
2 room today has that designation. This designation
3 certifies that our facilities have implemented
4 nationally-recognized, evidence-based clinical practices
5 that is proven to save lives even in the absence of cardiac
6 intervention. This is but one example of how hospitals do
7 not need to provide every service to provide affects on
8 patient outcomes.

9 While it may be arguable who provides
10 convenient services to McHenry County, it is certainly
11 clear who is stepping up to provide the necessary services
12 for this county. From health and wellness to general
13 medical and advance surgical and the only provider of
14 behavioral mental health services in the county, Centegra
15 serves critical healthcare needs locally. We don't talk
16 about it; we do it.

17 Let's not be fooled by the opposition who
18 oppose Centegra Health System. In fact, we should applaud
19 Centegra for its unwavering commitment in the face of
20 opposition to do what is right for the communities in which
21 we live every day.

22 In closing, a lot has been said today about
23 healthcare reform. Healthcare reform is not about building
24 or not building new hospitals. Healthcare reform is about

1 providing integrated healthcare services locally.
2 Understanding the needs of our local community is the first
3 step in being able to provide these services. No one
4 understands the needs of our community better than the
5 people that are in the community every day. Our support by
6 the people of McHenry County is unwavering. The very
7 people who live in our communities and the healthcare
8 provider who has been providing service to these
9 communities for over 100 years understands these needs, and
10 that is why we are proposing Centegra Hospital-Huntley. We
11 began this journey 5 years ago, providing outpatient
12 services in this area, followed by immediate care services,
13 followed by state-of-the-art wound care services. It is
14 now, and only now, that we propose a facility be built for
15 acute care services.

16 Today has reminded me why Centegra is a great
17 place to work. Our Centegra Hospital-Huntley is exactly
18 what is needed and exactly the place it is needed at
19 exactly the right time that it's needed.

20 Thank you.

21 (Applause)

22 MS. AVERY: Again, this project is being
23 considered at the May 10th, 2011 meeting. At this point we
24 don't have an exact location, but it will be on the web

1 site. I think we'll have to have a really large space.
2 Keep in mind that everyone has until April 20th to submit
3 any additional written comments in addition to what was
4 submitted today, and be sure that those who submitted the
5 written comments, that were here prepared to orally
6 testify -- I appreciate your flexibility, and the letters
7 will get to the Board and they will also be in the record
8 per the public transcript. And the address to send
9 additional comments is 525 West Jefferson, Second Floor,
10 Springfield, Illinois, 62761-001, or if you prefer, you can
11 fax the comments to 217-785-4111.

12 Are there any questions about the formalities
13 or the next steps?

14 (Pause)

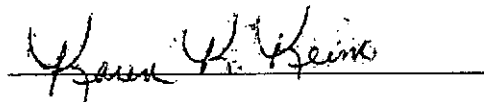
15 MS. AVERY: Seeing that there are no
16 additional comments, I deem this public meeting adjourned.
17 Thank you.

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, KAREN K. KEIM, RPR, CRR, a Certified Court Reporter in the State of Illinois and in the State of Missouri, do hereby certify that the proceedings in the above-entitled cause were taken by me to the best of my ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action, and further that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.



KAREN K. KEIM

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