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MAY 25 2011

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Ms. Courtney Avery

Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board, 2nd floor

525 West Jefferson Street

Springfield, Illinois 62761

May 17, 2010

Re: New Mercy- Crystal Lake Hospital

Dear Ms. Avery,

We oppose the establishment of a new hospital in McHenry County. We work in community outreach, including outreach to McHenry County. A key component of our function is to assess community needs. A recently completed year-long study, 2010 McHenry County Healthy Community Study, conducted by the University of Illinois College of Medicine reveals important information about the health needs of McHenry County, which is relevant to the CON application(s) to establish another hospital in McHenry County.

The study (which included 1100 completed household surveys) cited access to health care as an asset in McHenry County. Given this conclusion as well as others in the study, we do not believe that another hospital is needed in McHenry County.

Since the study report is over 400 pages and the executive summary is over 70 pages, the study process and key findings are summarized below. I am including for background, the first pages of the report, including the title page, list of sponsoring organization and the study purpose.

The fact that Advocate-Good Shepherd and Sherman hospitals were sponsors of the McHenry County Health Community Study further demonstrates that we are committed to serving McHenry County in spite of the fact that our hospitals are located just beyond the McHenry County borders.

Recent Release of Healthy Community Study

Results of the 2010 McHenry County Healthy Community study conducted by Health Systems Research Department of the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford were presented in April, 2011. These results are pertinent in evaluating the need for a new hospital in McHenry County. This unbiased,

third-party research on the health needs of McHenry County *does not* support the need for another hospital in McHenry County. In fact, the research concludes that McHenry County residents consider the access to health care as a strength of McHenry County.

Study Background

The year-long research was conducted by the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford. The study was sponsored by nineteen area organizations, including: McHenry County Department of Health, United Way of Greater McHenry County, Leadership of Greater McHenry County, Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce, Centegra Health System, Sherman Hospital and Advocate- Good Shepherd hospital.

The research included four types of needs assessments:

- (a) Community analysis of existing data to examine demographic, social, economic indicators and trends, health status and utilization
- (b) Household survey completed by 1100 residents of McHenry County
- (c) Focus groups, eleven focus groups conducted with eleven target populations
- (d) Key informant interviews with 34 community leaders and individuals with particular expertise

Key study findings- primary priorities for McHenry County

The McHenry County Healthy Community Study concluded that the four primary priorities are:

- (1) Information and referral system
- (2) Access to dental care for low income population
- (3) Access to mental health and substance abuse services
- (4) Obesity and nutrition

Notably, need for another hospital is not listed as a primary priority. In fact, the study cited access to quality health care as one of the best aspects of living in McHenry County. The Executive Summary of the study states that "the focus groups remarked on the number and variety of services for persons in need and agreed that access to services is far easier in McHenry County than Chicago and surrounding communities". In the household survey completed by 1100 McHenry County residents "availability of health care services" was rated as a strength of McHenry County; "availability of health care services" was ranked fourth highest among a list of seventeen characteristics of a healthy community.

Other key findings

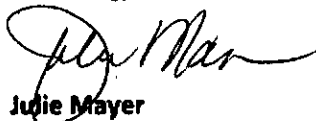
McHenry County residents have higher rates of health care coverage and lower rates of poverty than the state. One of the justifications cited in the application is meeting the needs of the indigent; however, compared to the state, McHenry County has a low poverty rate and a low rate of uninsured residents. The data from the study indicate that 5.6% of McHenry county residents live below the

poverty level, which is only about half that for the State (12.4%). The study also includes data from the Illinois Department of Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Survey which indicates that McHenry County has only half the rate of uninsured than the State, with 7.6% of McHenry County residents who have no health coverage compared to 15.0% for the State.

McHenry County residents have a favorable health status. The applicant cites access and proximity as rationale for construction of another hospital in McHenry County. Notably, McHenry County already enjoys very attractive health outcomes and health status. The study cites that one of the health care strengths in McHenry County is the low mortality rate. The study also reveals that data from the Illinois Department of Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Survey shows that McHenry County residents perceive their health to be much better than do residents of the state overall, with 60% of the McHenry County residents rating their health as excellent/good compared to only 51% for the State of Illinois.

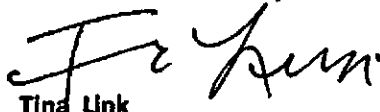
During the presentation of the study, mention was made of the Robert Wood Johnson study of health of the counties throughout the United States. The Robert Wood Johnson study provides further evidence of the high health status of McHenry County, rating McHenry with the fourth highest health ranking in the State of Illinois.

Sincerely,



Julie Mayer

Director of Community Outreach, Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital



Tina Link

Director of Community Outreach, Sherman Hospital



Working together for a
Healthier McHenry County

2010 McHenry County Healthy Community Study

Community Analysis

Focus Groups

Household Survey

Key Informant Interviews

Presentations

Organization

The 2010 McHenry County Healthy Community Study was led and directed by representatives from 19 partner organizations who served as steering committee members. Those organizations and their representatives are:

Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital Julie Mayer	League of United Latin Amer. Citizens Maggie Rivera
Centegra Health System Hadley Streng & Rowena Wermes	McHenry County Mental Health Board Barbara Iehl
Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce Maria Ortega	Pioneer Center Kemberly Dailey Johnson
Environmental Defenders Suzanne Johnson	Sherman Hospital Tina Link
1 st Congregational Church of Crystal Lake Kathryn Gooding	Senior Services Associates Inc. Meg LaMonica
Leadership Greater McHenry County Marcy Piekos & Dr. Frances Glosson	United Way of Greater McHenry County David Barber
McHenry County College Lena Kalemba	Woodstock Christian Life (Hearthstone) Rick Curtis
McHenry County Community Foundation John Small	Woodstock Community Unit School District 200 Laura Crain
McHenry County Conservation District Pete Merkel	Village of Prairie Grove Jeannine Smith
McHenry County Department of Health Joseph Gugle & Debra Quackenbush	

The Core Team includes Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital (Julie Mayer), Centegra Health System (Hadley Streng & Rowena Wermes), McHenry County Community Foundation (John Small), McHenry County Department of Health (Joseph Gugle & Debra Quackenbush), and United Way of Greater McHenry County (David Barber).

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

Purpose

The "health" of a community extends far beyond the traditional view focused on select health measures and availability of medical resources. Rather, a healthy community encompasses a broad range of community characteristics that define the ingredients of a healthy place to live. With this vision in mind, the McHenry County Healthy Communities Study had sought to understand and address the county's most pressing needs, involving partners from diverse organizations. Nineteen (19) partners guided the process in 2010, almost doubling the number who were involved four years earlier.

Similar to the 2006 project, the 2010 McHenry County Healthy Community Study aims to improve the health of McHenry County residents. That begins with a thorough understanding of the county's "health" as measured using four assessments, each from a different perspective including residents, populations in need of services, community leaders, and descriptors using secondary data sources. Through the assessments, knowledge is gained about the current health status of county residents, demographic trends, social and economic indicators, health behaviors, and utilization of health services. The assessments also attempt to understand the perceptions of community strengths and weaknesses as well as answer questions about the health and human services delivery system, unmet needs, gaps, and barriers to care.

McHenry County's 2010 Healthy Community Study significantly expanded the reach and scope of the community needs assessment by drawing in additional partners and incorporating additional issues such as environment and employment to provide a more thorough understanding of the quality of life experienced by area residents.

Health Systems Research (HSR) of the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford was contracted to conduct three components of the needs assessment, specifically the household survey, focus groups, and key informants, as well as prepare this summary report. The community analysis was completed by the McHenry County Department of Health with guidance and oversight provided by Health Systems Research.

Health Systems Research, which specializes in community needs assessments for health and human service organizations, has assisted the McHenry County Department of Health and other local organizations on numerous projects over the past decade. HSR also conducted the four components of the comprehensive needs assessment carried out for the 2006 McHenry County Healthy Community Study.

Steering committee members, their organizations, and other service providers will use this document to determine what should be done and implement strategies and actions.