

Hills, Bonnie

From: Gerald Chverchko [jtdc@mac.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2011 10:43 AM
To: Hills, Bonnie
Subject: HFSRB_Info

Dear Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board Members,

Please... No more traffic, no more street noise, no more putting our children in danger as they attempt to walk home from the Reed Road Campus following after-school activities. The proposed site for the Centegra Hospital in Huntley, McHenry County, makes absolutely no sense and will promote further dangerous pedestrian casualties and vehicle accidents in a largely residential area of the village.

Currently, the intersections of Reed and Algonquin Roads with Haligus Road are dangerous enough as we have witnessed an ever-increasing amount of accidents. The addition of the Centegra Health Bridge Fitness Center and the Centegra Health Center traffic has expanded the scope of putting lives at risk and the solution is not to simply add more traffic signals and a "Walk" signal, as drivers tend to ignore the fact that pedestrians have the right-of-way. I have to ask, why escalate the threat to the safety of our children and the lives of the local residents by adding more traffic, more people in a rush to get to the hospital?

Furthermore, from a business standpoint another hospital does not make a lot of sense either. From the proposed site, Centegra Memorial Medical Center is less than 8 miles away, Sherman Hospital is roughly 12 miles away, Provena Saint Joseph Hospital is 15 miles away, and Centegra Hospital-McHenry is 18 miles away. That is four hospitals within a 20 mile radius, without mentioning all of the immediate care centers. Does every community, every village really need a hospital to call it's own? Drawing patients away from the existing hospitals leads to open beds, therefore cannibalizing the hospital business. Too many open beds leads to the existing hospitals not being able to cover their operating costs. Not being able to cover operating costs leads to lost jobs as cutbacks are made or hospitals are forced to close.

Supporters like to argue that the population of Huntley is growing and indeed it has, but they conveniently use figures from 2000 to 2008 for their projections before people were faced with the trying times of the recession, which lead to many homes being foreclosed. Take a walk through the Northbridge community and how many homes do you see sitting empty? Then research how long they have been sitting empty.

Look beyond Northbridge and how many homes did not get built in Talamore? I then have to ask, how do these facts support the statement of growth? If the state ignores the facts and moves forward with a hospital, listen to many of the supporters that suggest the need is due to the population of Del Webb's Sun City and build it closer to that senior community along Route 47. Because of the newly widened Route 47, access would be infinitely easier from both north and south, and there's plenty of non-residential land in the area between Wal- mart and Route 90.

The letter we received from Michael Eesley, CEO of Centegra Health System, states that any future plans will involve our input, their valued neighbors, just as it was when they were planning and building the Centegra Health Bridge Fitness Center and Centegra Health Center. I assure you they did not, otherwise I would have kindly asked them not to build a swimming pool directly across from our backyard. In the past, there has been no consideration shown toward the residents in the immediate vicinity of the gym and immediate care facility, and I don't foresee Centegra seeking our input if the hospital is approved by the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board Members.

In the end, the business case does not support the need for a new hospital. The supply already is abundant within a short distant radius. What does make the case for a new hospital is to create the demand of its services. Achieve this by putting lives at risk by building it next to a school campus in a mainly residential area. A new hospital that inflates danger means generating more injuries, thereby creating the demand for the services of that hospital.

Arguably, a new hospital in Huntley may not make business sense... Undeniably, a new hospital located in a primarily residential area heavily populated with school age children, located across the street from three schools, Chesak Elementary, Martin Elementary, and Marlowe Middle School, makes ZERO sense.

A concerned resident,

Gerald Chverchko

10597 Mayfield Lane
Huntley, IL 60142
847-224-2599
j.chverchko@mac.com