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Courtney Avery

Administrator

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

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LARRY SUFFREDIN
COMMISSIONER - 13TH DISTRICT
COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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JUL 26 2013

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Dear Ms. Avery,

As you know, the Vanguard-owned hospitals in Chicagoland are being considered for a merger with Tenet Healthcare. I write to you to ask for your support and expedited consideration of the Certificate of Need application for the merger. Under Tenet's ownership, the four facilities would smoothly transition into an expanded national network of experts and resources of nearly 80 hospitals and more than 150 medical centers nationwide. At your upcoming August 13, 2013 meeting, I encourage you and your colleagues to consider and approve this application for merger.

Westlake Hospital, West Suburban Medical Center, Weiss Memorial Hospital and MacNeal Hospital have all been cornerstones in Cook County's healthcare community for decades. While each offers its own specialties and services, all four facilities focus on providing top-quality care for their surrounding communities. Multi-lingual employees, community outreach and education programs, and local health fairs foster a unique relationship between the hospitals and the residents and patients who utilize their services. With this merger, this relationship would be strengthened while broadening the resources and expertise provided by these four hospitals.

I am glad to know the transition will be smooth for those who utilize the services of these facilities, as Tenet will allow for local hospital leadership and operational authority to stay in place and preserve existing services at the facilities for a minimum of two years. These aspects of the merger have been considered with the goal of providing a seamless transition that would allow for continuity of care for all members of the community.

I thank you in advance for your time and consideration of this important issue for our healthcare community. This merger would better position our area hospitals in this competitive marketplace and allow for the best quality of care for our residents. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 312-603-6383.

Sincerely,


Commissioner Larry Suffredin

13th-District Cook County Commissioner

The 13th District includes the following communities:

49th & 50th Wards of the City of Chicago, the City of Evanston and the Villages of Glencoe, Glenview, Kenilworth, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Niles, Northbrook, Skokie, Wilmette, and Winnetka.



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