

October 17, 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

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OCT 27 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

RE: Project Application #14-043

Ms. Avery:

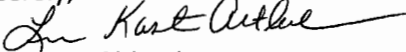
I have spent my entire career working in health care in Belleville. I am writing to express my concerns surrounding the plans for St. Elizabeth's Hospital Belleville to relocate from Belleville the proposed location in O'Fallon. I believe this move would adversely impact access to health care for residents of Belleville and surrounding communities, especially the economically disadvantaged. I work in case management with social workers in the Belleville community and as such witness and attempt to meet the significant health care needs of the people in the Belleville area, especially people who are economically disadvantaged. The proposed new location for St. Elizabeth's Hospital will only further hinder access to care for those in most need.

If St. Elizabeth's leaves Belleville and relocates to O'Fallon, this will leave only one hospital, Memorial, to serve the greater Belleville area. I have serious concerns that one hospital would have great difficulty managing the increased volume that would result. Memorial's emergency department has already experienced significant increases in patient volumes over the last 10 years. The additional volume closing St. Elizabeth's Belleville location would bring will surely create significant capacity issues for Memorial and care access issues for patients. The EMS system is obligated to bring a patient in medical need to the closest emergency department. For a large portion of the population in the greater Belleville area, this would be Memorial. This area and all of the people living here need more than one facility to meet health care needs.

Memorial has committed to continue to serve the Belleville community, all while building a second hospital in Shiloh. Memorial has continued to invest in its flagship facility in Belleville and has made a commitment to serve the people of Belleville and surrounding communities. St. Elizabeth's moving to O'Fallon will impact access to care for some of the neediest people in southern Illinois. The move is not consistent with their mission of serving the poor. The people with the most to lose are those who need health care access the most.

For these reasons, I am opposed to St. Elizabeth's proposal to move to O'Fallon. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,


Lisa Kasten Altland
O'Fallon, Illinois

Cc: Mr. Mike Constantino

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

October 19, 2014
Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761
Re: Project Application #14-043

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing to express my concern about the plans of St. Elizabeth's Hospital to relocate out of Belleville to the proposed O'Fallon location. I truly believe this relocation will adversely impact the health of the citizens that reside in surrounding communities.

I have many family members and friends that have utilized St. Elizabeth's Hospital in the past due to the location and by not having this hospital it could cause a delay in obtaining healthcare treatment in a timely manner. Specifically, my father was flown from Randolph County to St. Elizabeth's for emergency open heart surgery. Not having St. Elizabeth's in this location could have been the difference between life and death.

Having attended the Open Forum on October 2, 2014, the staff from St. Elizabeth's continuously stated how bad their work environment is currently and is upsetting in the fact that they let it get this way. They advertise and state that St. Elizabeth's has been around for the "community" and are here for the "community". By relocating, they are abandoning the community and leave many people without access to timely healthcare. Many people would have no transportation to get to the new location. Many businesses in Belleville and the survival of this community would be put in jeopardy with this relocation. The relocation of St. Elizabeth's would be detrimental to this area of St. Clair County.

Belleville needs two hospitals for the number of patients in the area. The relocation of St. Elizabeth's would have a huge impact on Memorial Hospital which remains committed to the Belleville Community. For all of the above reasons and many more, I am in opposition of the relocation of St. Elizabeth's Hospital. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Howell
Millstadt, Illinois

Cc: Mr. Mike Constantino

Shyama Patel
3615 Olive St.
St. Louis, MO 63108

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

To whom it may concern,

My name is Shyama Patel and I am a student intern at Memorial Hospital in Belleville, IL. I am writing you today in regard to Project #14- 043, the relocation of St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

If St. Elizabeth's Hospital were to relocate, they will limit access to healthcare for many people in the Belleville area. I acknowledge that their incentive is to reduce costs and expand facilities to serve a larger population. However, Memorial Hospital has already begun construction for a new facility in the Shiloh/O'Fallon area. There is not an immediate need for another facility within that area. The Belleville area currently has two hospital facilities that serve not only the population of Belleville but also surrounding areas such as Centreville, Caseyville, East St. Louis, and Swansea. Relocation will leave the current Belleville facility abandoned with little to no chance of being renovated. If St. Elizabeth's Hospital allows its current facility to work with outpatient services, most of the facility would still remain empty and face risk of demolition.

I take, for example, the closing of my hometown Memorial Hospital in Marion, IL. The hospital which was located in downtown Marion closed in 2002 when a newly constructed hospital was opened. The former building stayed abandoned for years, with little hope of selling. Finally, it was demolished in 2009 and the land is currently under construction for a new Recreation Center. With this, is the consideration of what will become of the abandoned space in downtown Belleville. The cost of demolishing would be another expense they would face, when the facility could be renovated and make use of the space it currently has.

Another major concern is the need for quality healthcare to the low-income residents within the Belleville and East St. Louis area. St. Elizabeth's is affiliated with the Catholic Church, and its mission is to provide care to those in need. If the facility moves to the Shiloh and O'Fallon area, they would be seeing wealthier patients. The median household income for that area is \$60,000 whereas it is \$42,000 for the downtown Belleville area. The lower-income residents in the Belleville area would also have a longer drive to the new hospital.

The relocation poses a large risk to many of the residents in the area. Not only does it affect the quality of care, but the surrounding businesses and schools. The new location would be further away for many elderly and low income families. St. Elizabeth's claims that the new hospital is easier to access due to the interstate; however, for those driving from downtown Belleville or in the Southern part of the region, it would be a longer drive. Think of the drive on the local roads they would have to take to get on the interstate in the first place. The extended drive time would greatly inhibit services for residents.

Overall, the move is unnecessary. It would be beneficial for the area if the hospital kept its current facility and renovated it to keep serving the same population.

Sincerely,

Shyama Patel