

Shyrlena Bogard, M.D.  
Jeffrey Edwards, M.D. - Board Certified  
Mitchell Khan, D.O. - Board Certified



**WOMEN'S**  
HEALTH CARE CENTER  
at Illinois Valley Community Hospital  
*Obstetrics & Gynecology*

15-006  
Elizabeth Birkey, C.N.M.  
Pam Koehler, C.N.M.  
Angela Reidner, C.N.M.  
Heather Miller, C.N.M.

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62761

March 17, 2015

**RECEIVED**

MAR 23 2015

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

**RE: Support for Bloomington-Normal Birthing Center, LLC**

Dear Members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board,

I am writing in support of the application from Bloomington-Normal Birthing Center, LLC to bring a birthing center to Bloomington-Normal. This center will offer a new service not otherwise offered in McLean County or anywhere in downstate at this time.

It will address the need to control the above average percentage of births by Caesarian section (C-section) in Bloomington-Normal, and the associated increased cost of care. Recent research shows that more and more women are choosing to rely on midwives than they did 20 years ago, and experts think this trend is a direct reaction to rising rates of C-section births. The Bloomington-Normal market, with its 33-39% C-section rate, would greatly benefit from offering women the option of a more physiological, natural birthing option of a birthing center.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter of support. I urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve the application for Bloomington-Normal Birthing Center.

Sincerely,

*Pamela Koehler, MS, APN, CNM*



COLDWELL BANKER COMMERCIAL  
HEART OF AMERICA REALTORS®

802 S. Eldorado Road  
Bloomington, IL 61704

PH: (309) 662-3377

FAX: (309) 664-3570

March 18, 2015

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62761

**RE: Support for Bloomington-Normal Birthing Center, LLC**

I am writing in support of the application from Bloomington-Normal Birthing Center, LLC to bring a birthing center to Bloomington-Normal. As a REALTOR® for Bloomington-Normal, I worked with the owners of Bloomington-Normal Birthing Center, LLC, Dr. Ogunleye and Dr. Santiago, as they considered several properties for the future home of their envisioned birthing center. During my work with Dr. Ogunleye and Dr. Santiago, I learned much from these gentlemen about birthing centers and about their commitment to making the Center a success.

Bloomington-Normal will make an ideal location for the Birthing Center, given that it is located at the crossroads of I-74, I-39, I-55, and US-51. Bloomington-Normal is a vibrant, family-oriented community, and I believe that the Bloomington-Normal Birthing Center will be an excellent addition to both our community, and surrounding communities of the Central Illinois region. Furthermore, the owners have selected a location within the community that will allow for easy access by car and by public transportation.

Time and again, these owners demonstrated to me their commitment to this project, by persevering until they found the best property to meet their budget and all the criteria for a successful center. They had clearly done their research on what type of property, location, and price range would work best for a birthing center. We worked tirelessly through many options before they selected the property at 6 Westport, on which they have a contract to purchase pending the approval of their application. With the passion, commitment and good business sense that I witnessed from both Dr. Ogunleye and Dr. Santiago, I have no doubt that the Center will be a complete success.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter of support. I urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve the application for Bloomington-Normal Birthing Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura Pritts', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Laura Pritts  
Coldwell Banker Commercial  
Broker/REALTOR®

February 25, 2015

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62761

**RE: Support for Bloomington-Normal Birthing Center, LLC**

Dear Members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board,

I am writing in support of the application from Bloomington-Normal Birthing Center, LLC to bring a birthing center to Bloomington-Normal. This center will offer a new service not otherwise offered in McLean County or anywhere in downstate at this time. Even more exciting than the idea of a first-of-its-kind birthing center in this region is the collaboration and overall community benefit that will come from having this center in our community.

The owners of Bloomington-Normal Birthing Center, LLC have been working diligently to establish positive relations with the two hospitals in the community as well as with the area's medical community. In the spring of 2014, the owners reached out to both hospital administrators, and by fall, they secured a contractual transfer agreement with OSF St. Joseph Medical Center. In November 2014, Bloomington-Normal Birthing Center, LLC held an educational event for the medical community to educate and begin a dialogue with their colleagues on this topic. Over 40 members attended this event which was intended for all to see that the addition of birth center(s) in a community will allow hospitals to provide more productive and smart utilization of resources to care for the more acute patient.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter of support. I urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve the application for Bloomington-Normal Birthing Center.

Sincerely,

*Elizabeth Gaby, CNM, DNP, APN (ELIZABETH GABY)*  
Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Illinois, Chicago  
Home: 710, S. Noah Terrace, West Prospect, IL 60056