

Belvidere Area Chamber of Commerce

Serving Boone County Since 1915

130 South State Street, Suite 300
Belvidere, Illinois 61008
Phone: 815-544-4357, Fax 815-547-7654

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May 8, 2015

MAY 11 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield IL 62761

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Courtney,

Memo: Letter of Support for Project 15-021 OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center

Our basis for support:

- ✓ Project will provide for nearly all private rooms at OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center
- ✓ Private rooms are larger and able to accommodate today's high tech equipment
- ✓ The Prompt Care will provide an alternative to emergency room treatment, thereby reducing cost to the healthcare system, to employers and to patients
- ✓ The project will benefit the community by providing several hundred construction jobs for 20-24 months
- ✓ Because OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center is Level I trauma center, the project will benefit the community by improving Rockford's ability to continuing being a destination for higher level health care services
- ✓ The project will benefit the community by aiding in the recruitment of healthcare professionals to the Rockford area
- ✓ OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center has a history of providing care to everyone, regardless of the ability to pay or payor source
- ✓ OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center is a strong partner within the overall healthcare system, such as physicians, other providers and insurers.
- ✓ OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center is a champion for health and wellness in the community and this project further supports those endeavors
- ✓ OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center has served the Rockford region for over 100 years and is a stable employer of nearly 2,000 people in the region
- ✓ The modernization is needed to achieve the best care possible

Sincerely,



Thomas Lassandro
Executive Director



ROCKFORD
ORTHOPEDIC

May 8, 2015

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Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

RE: Letter of Support for OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center Modernization Project 15-021

Dear Ms. Avery:

Rockford Orthopedic Associates, Ltd. is a subspecialty practice comprised of 23 surgeons, 6 non-operative physicians, and 5 locations in Rockford, Illinois. The practice has served the musculoskeletal needs of northern Illinois residents since 1967.

During this tenure, Rockford Orthopedic, along with other community physicians and health care services, have enjoyed a strong and supportive partnership with OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center in serving the health needs of our community. We believe this project will allow OSF Saint Anthony to provide even greater value to the region as a Level 1 trauma center destination for higher level care.

OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center stands as a solid asset to our community by not only serving as a major employer of over 2,000 in our area, but also in providing access to high quality health care services to all community members, regardless of ability to pay or payor source.

On behalf of all the physicians of Rockford Orthopedic, I offer our full support of this modernization project. OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center has always been associated with quality patient care. This modernization project will allow OSF to now provide that higher level of care with expanded access and improved amenities such as private rooms that are not currently available but which contribute to the comfort and overall patient experience.

Sincerely,

Don Schreiner

Chief Executive Officer

Rockford Orthopedic Associates, Ltd.

... a higher standard of care.

PERRYVILLE SURGICAL ASSOCIATES, S.C.

MICHAEL J. BEIERLE, M.D., F.A.C.S.
ROBERT G. HODGE, M.D., F.A.C.S.
KENNETH W. MIHELICH, M.D., F.A.C.S.

EDWARD C. PYUN, JR., M.D., F.A.C.S.
ANDREW P. HOFFMAN, M.D., F.A.C.S.
STATHIS J. POULAKIDAS, M.D.

May 6, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield IL 62761

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

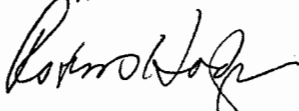
RE: Letter of Support for Saint Anthony Medical Center Modernization Project 15-021

Dear Ms. Avery,

I would like to express my support for the proposed Saint Anthony Medical Center Modernization project in Rockford, Illinois. As you may know OSF St. Anthony Medical Center has been a leading provider of hospital services and healthcare to our community for more than a century. But the current hospital building is at least fifty years old. While it has been continuously and meticulously maintained for all this time it can no longer adequately support the ever more sophisticated expectations of the public, the demands of advancing technologies, or the needs of the hospital staff.

By granting OSF St. Anthony permission to add the proposed 78 private beds, and the other public and clinical treatment spaces being requested you will be allowing St. Anthony to develop a modern, technologically advanced and efficient health care facility for the twenty-first century. This in turn will create a more healing environment for patients and their families. It will become easier to attract and retain healthcare professionals to our area. It will enable St. Anthony Medical Center remain a positive economic contributor to our community and to continue its commitment of service and excellence to all the residents of northern Illinois.

Sincerely,



Robert G. Hodge, M.D., F.A.C.S.



William R. Gorski, M.D.
President And Chief Executive Officer

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

May 7, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Ms. Avery:

This letter is in support of the OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center Modernization Project 15-021. As a member of the healthcare profession serving Rockford and northern Illinois, SwedishAmerican Health System has a great understanding of the work and role that Saint Anthony Medical Center has in this community. This proposed project with the construction of private patient rooms is a modernization that will address many of the current and future standards and expectations for patient care in our community.

We understand this project does not include any new services or additions to the in-patient bed inventory of OSF Saint Anthony.

Please contact me with any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Bill Gorski, MD

President and CEO
SWEDISHAMERICAN
A DIVISION OF UW HEALTH
1313 E. State Street
Rockford, IL 61104
779-696-4003
wgorski@swedishamerican.org

GENERAL, THORACIC, CARDIOTHORACIC,
VASCULAR, LAPAROSCOPIC, HEAD AND NECK,
COLON AND RECTAL SURGERY

THE ROCKFORD SURGICAL SERVICE

LESLIE P. EDGCOMB, M.D. MARY E. KELLER, M.D.
MARC WHITMAN, M.D. DAVID G. CABLE, M.D.
JEFFREY A. BARTEAU, M.D. MEHUL P. SONI, M.D.
LAWRENCE P. PRABHAKAR, M.D. DACIA PICKERING, M.D.

May 6, 2015

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Support for Saint Anthony Medical Center Modernization Project 15-021

Dear Ms. Avery:

Speaking on behalf of The Rockford Surgical Service, please allow me to voice our enthusiastic support for the St. Anthony Medical Center Modernization Project listed above. Our practice has provided the highest quality surgical care to the Rockford and Northern Illinois region for over sixty years, and we have been blessed to have OSF St. Anthony as a partner in our goals of growth, innovation and compassion from the start. The commitment from the hospital has uniformly been to provide the infrastructure necessary to ensure that physicians and nurses can always put the patients and the quality of their care first, regardless of their ability to pay. However, we have reached a time where the considerations of delivering the best modern health care require projects such as the new St. Anthony bed pavilion.

The most important feature that this project will provide is private rooms. It becomes more apparent every day that delivering high quality and low cost care is founded on minimizing the likelihood of complications and treatment errors, and including patients and their families in the understanding and care of their condition. Issues such as infection prevention, the role of excessive noise on stress and treatment errors, the importance of frank and private conversations with providers, and adequate space for patients and providers to interact with increasingly complex equipment are coming to the forefront. Every one of these considerations will see significant improvement in the modernized bed pavilion. To make certain that these opportunities can be realized in the most effective way possible, OSF has sought input and advice from physicians and nurses long before finalizing the plans.

The quality of a community's medical care is not dependent solely on the quality of its hospitals, but also on its ability to attract and retain the best physicians, nurses, therapists and other caregivers. The Rockford Surgical Service and other private groups in Rockford have all had difficulties in the past at attracting the best and brightest, largely because they have recent experience at the finest medical training centers in the world. They have seen first-hand that modern facilities don't just provide shiny new bells and whistles, but that when they are well-designed with the latest evidence-based considerations in mind, both patients and providers are able to see improved outcomes. The St. Anthony modernization will certainly make it more likely that such talent can be recruited to Rockford, and it makes me very excited for the opportunity to practice and provide surgical care in the new patient pavilion.

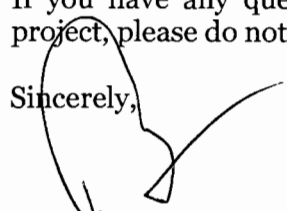
www.RockfordSurgical.com

5668 East State Street
Rockford, IL 61108-2464
815.397.7900 Fax 815.397.4839

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
Continued
Page 2

If you have any questions regarding the support of The Rockford Surgical Service for this project, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Barteau, MD, FACS
President, The Rockford Surgical Service

JAB/rlt

MAY 11 2015

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a member of the OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center Therapy dog team. This is a wonderful program enjoyed by staff, patients, and their family members. While it brings me great joy to share my therapy dog with the patients at OSF, I feel that having a "perfect" visit is many times hindered by the area in which we have to work. Maneuvering my dog around furniture, medical equipment, and visiting family members can be a challenge. At times, it requires moving furniture or having family members reposition themselves in the room. We also have to be conscious of not encroaching on the roommates space. Private rooms would allow for much easier access to our patients and their family members. It would free up time from "adjusting the room set-up" and add to our time spent doing what we do best.....visiting! I support the new bed pavilion project and urge you to approve the application.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jodi Kast and Cooper

OSF Therapy Dog Team

May 7, 2015

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Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield IL 62761

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Re: Letter of Support for OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center Modernization Project 15-021

Dear Ms. Avery:

KishHealth System, as the only provider of acute care services in DeKalb County, has enjoyed and benefited from a long established working relationship with OSF St. Anthony's Medical Center in Rockford. St. Anthony's has served as our primary tertiary referral center over the years. They are committed to providing care for everyone regardless of their ability to pay. Our organization, community and patients have benefited from the breadth and depth of services that St. Anthony's offers throughout Northern Illinois.

St. Anthony's has been thoughtful and deliberate in their strategic, campus and facility planning. We understand how important it is for any provider to expand and upgrade their facilities consistent with the marketplace and the demands of their consumers. St. Anthony's project including their new private rooms will enhance privacy, improve patient safety and allow for a better healing environment. This project will benefit Rockford and the Northern Illinois area by improving St. Anthony's ability to continue to be a referral destination for higher levels of care that community hospitals and systems like KishHealth are unable to provide in their local communities.

Accordingly, the KishHealth System fully supports "St. Anthony Medical Center Modernization Project 15-021." Thank you and the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board for your consideration. I am pleased to provide any additional information on behalf of our organization if needed.

Sincerely,



Kevin Poorten
President & CEO

Rockford

ILLINOIS ★ U S A
ROCKFORD AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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Administrator
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525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Support of OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center Modernization Project 15-021

Dear Ms. Avery,

On behalf of the Rockford Area Economic Development Council (RAEDC), I am writing in support of the OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center Modernization Project 15-021.

The primary role of the RAEDC is to improve the economic strength of the Rockford Region by helping employers retain and create quality jobs. The RAEDC works closely with many partners to serve as a one-stop resource for clients, to improve the competitiveness of the region and to engage the community in the daily work of economic development. Our vision is that "the Rockford Region be a world-class community in job growth, capital investment, healthcare, attraction of talent, educational achievement and personal income growth, while preserving the quality of life and natural amenities that are key assets of our region."

This is a critical time for the Rockford Region, and OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center's \$85 million project will support and fulfill our vision in all of the areas outlined above. Most noticeable for patients would be the upgrade to private rooms as a standard of care to decrease infection rates, accommodate life-saving high-tech equipment, improve privacy and allow families to be more engaged in today's holistic approach to healing. Most noticeable for the RAEDC, an organization driving the post-recession momentum and 21st-century prosperity of the Rockford Region, is that the project's modernization meets an urgent need outlined in the recent Rockford Region Diversification Plan by AngelouEconomics -- ensuring Rockford has a solid foundation of modern business infrastructure. OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center Modernization Project 15-021 would be a vital piece in the overall puzzle of forward-leading opportunities for economic growth and recovery. Its impact of enhanced services would serve this community not just now but for years to come.

Additionally, the project would drive:

- Employment (650-700 construction jobs over two years)
- Healthcare careers (OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center employs more than 2,000 people in our region)
- Overall income levels (the healthcare field is vital in offering high-paying jobs; the median salary for a nurse was \$66,220 in 2013, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics)
- Recruitment of top-end talent who can afford to choose where they want to work and why
- Access to overall care and Level I trauma services for people across the income spectrum

Our organization has worked closely with OSF, appreciates its significant contribution to our region, and recognizes its need to transform to meet the growing needs of the community today and for years to come. Initiatives that demonstrate government's willingness to support business development are vital to the growth of our nation's economy. On behalf of the Rockford Area Economic Development Council, I am pleased to support the OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center Modernization Project 15-021 and encourage your support as well as a means to accelerate our state's economic development and ultimate success.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Nicholas

Michael P. Nicholas
President

