



Winnebago County Health Department

Promoting a Safer and Healthier Community Since 1854

Sandra Martell, RN, DNP
Public Health Administrator

October 22, 2015

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

RECEIVED

OCT 26 2015

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Re: MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

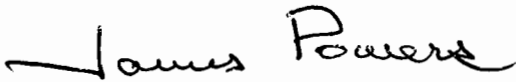
Dear Ms. Avery,

As the state certified local health department for Winnebago County including the City of Rockford, the Winnebago County Health Department is committed to its mission of healthy people in a healthy community without health disparities.

Access to care including behavioral and oral health was identified by the community through the IPLAN (Illinois Project for Local Assessment of Needs) assessment process as a priority health issue for the community *by the community*. Strategies that expand healthcare services are welcome in support of the Community Health Improvement Plan. Populations of highest risk are concentrated in the west region of Winnebago County based on data from the most recent IPLAN and Healthy Community Survey data. Expansion needs to ensure that populations at highest risk for poor health outcomes have access to the entire continuum of care including primary prevention, acute care, and restorative/rehabilitative care to achieve health equity. It also needs to focus on accessibility to the care including proximity if it is going to be used effectively.

The Winnebago County Board of Health believes that any project for our jurisdiction brought before the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board should support this goal. Thank you for considering our thoughts in your review of these projects.

Respectfully,



James Powers, LCSW
President, Winnebago County Board of Health

Susan Fernandez, RN
Angie Goral
Luci Hoover
Ronald Gottschalk

John Halversen, DDS
David Helland, DVM
Patricia Lewis, RN, PhD
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