

5429 Falcon Crest Drive
Machesney Park, Illinois

RECEIVED

NOV 13 2015

Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

On Nov. 17, 2015 a proposal from Rockford Memorial Hospital is suppose to be presented to your review board.

Docket #H-02 Rockford Memorial Hospital-Riverside Campus, Rockford Project #15-039

Docket #H-03 Rockford Mem. Hosp. Riverside Blvd. Campus Medical Clinic Bldg, Rockford
Project #15-040

For many years the only hospital facilities in Rockford have been: Swedish American on State St. in central Rockford, OSF on East State in east/central Rockford and Rockford Memorial On the far west side of Rockford (not such a favorable area of town).

It has been long wondered by residents on the far northeast side of Rockford and northeast Communities if we would ever get a hospital more accessible to us and the outlying communities. When in pain or emergency situations every extra minute of travel seems to take forever to get there. Driving time to each of the existing hospitals is at least 25 minutes or longer depending on the location.

The proposal by RMH to put a hospital facility on the far northeast side was like answered prayer. This proposal has however been met with some opposition by some west side residents fearing loss of RMH services. HOWEVER: most all emergency services and regular hospital services will continue at the west side campus and even be enhanced due to more available rooms for regular admissions that are lacking at most hospitals particularly during flu season when there are never enough available rooms at most hospitals and people are staying in hallways waiting for a room.

OSF is objecting claiming that there will be a mal-distribution of healthcare services and an unsustainable geographical glut on the east side and are inventing a huge loss of income to OSF. They are also claiming that the new facility will be just minutes away from them. However: Swedish American is less than 10 minutes from them to the west and RMH new facility will in-fact be 20-25 minutes from them to the northeast.

OSF is the only hospital in the area that has operated making huge profits while the others are usually in the red because they take in all the Medicaid patients. Because of OSF's huge profits they have striven to be the Big Kingpin in the area and seem to be out to monopolize the healthcare system not wanting any competition.

OSF having enjoyed huge profits have overtaken/bought-out many of the large Specialty Physician groups such as Rockford Cardiology and most recently bought out 2 Surgical Physician Groups to form what they boast to be the "Largest Surgical Group" in the region. There is No concern on their part as to how this affects the less profitable hospitals in the area – but that it makes them bigger and more profitable.

OSF is concerned about losing patients should the RMH project go through. However, most people are going to stick with their current physicians unless their insurance plan dictates that they utilize a different health system.

A couple years ago OSF wanted to merge with Rockford Memorial, but now wants to complain about it wanting to expand; rather than recognize that RMH needs to expand in order to better meet the needs of the patients that use the services of RMH.

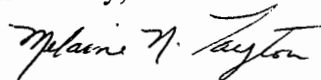
The Rockford Memorial Riverside location will primarily offer hospital care for "Specialty Care Patients" such as: heart surgery, high-risk pregnancy care patients and Neo-Natal Intensive Care Units. The one of a kind NICU at Rockford Memorial has always been utilized by ALL Regional hospitals.

The NICU at the new location will have the much needed updated equipment and facilities that are lacking in the cramped and outdated current facility. This will be a huge benefit to the region as a whole and to all those seriously ill babies and children who are treated there. Furthermore: Rockford Memorial's new facility will be able to accommodate the modern technology needed for more sufficticated operations.

I have worked at Swedish American for 25 years and know the pros and cons of all the area hospitals. I know there is much competition between each of them, but strongly believe that if a new facility is beneficial to everyone in the region that is what is important.

I fully support the Rockford Memorial project and see the benefits to the community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Melaine N. Layton".

Melaine Layton