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HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

February 5, 2016

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

RE: Franciscan St. James Health-Chicago Heights, COE E-08-16  
Franciscan St. James Health-Olympia Fields, CON 16-005

Dear Ms. Avery:

Please accept this letter as an indication of Synergy Healthcare's support for Franciscan St. James Health's plans to reorganize the manner in which it provides services in the Southland Region. Synergy has enjoyed a close working relationship with Franciscan St. James Health, and looks forward to that relationship continuing.

St James and Synergy work together to provide services supporting the behavioral health needs for the local communities that St James serves. Approval of the above referenced requests will not diminish these services but rather has the potential to further expand the behavioral health service offerings within the Southland community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this letter of support.

Sincerely,



Jeff Bergren

COG E-08-16  
CON 16-005

# VILLAGE OF OLYMPIA FIELDS

20040 Governors Highway

Olympia Fields, IL 60461

Phone (708) 503-8000 • Fax (708) 503-8002

February 9, 2016

VILLAGE PRESIDENT

*Debbie Meyers-Martin*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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*Willett Hulson*

BUILDING

*Willis Pennington Jr.*

PLANNING/ZONING

On behalf of the Olympia Fields, Village President Debbie Meyers-Martin and our Board of Trustees, I would like to offer our whole-hearted support for the Franciscan St. James Strategic Restructuring Plan. The plan has been well thought out and is in the best interest of upgrading health care delivery services, not only to Olympia Fields, but our entire Southland region. Due to the generosity of the Franciscan Sisters and their confidence in the Chicago Southland, we have the opportunity to take two quality hospitals and transform them into an exceptional level of healthcare that this region has not seen before.

We should not look at this opportunity as what should be in the best interest of Olympia Fields or Chicago Heights; rather what is in the best interest of both our communities and our region at large as a whole. The one-hundred thirty-seven million dollar investment represents one of largest economic investments to the Chicago Southland in decades. The plan will feature expanded emergency room capacity, new in-patient rehabilitation and obstetrics, introduce new hospice care; and will provide modern, all private patient rooms for upgraded hospital stay. And let me point out that in Chicago Heights, Franciscan St. James is improving their access to out-patient services and primary care; and doubling the size of their Urgent Care Facility, staffed by physicians 24/7.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

*David A. Mekarshi, AICP*

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

AND ADMINISTRATION

*Cynthia Saenz*

CHIEF OF POLICE

*John A. Krull*

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

*James Landini*

BUILDING COMMISSIONER

*John M. McDonnell*

For the last eighteen (18) months, Mr. Kimmel, CEO of Franciscan St. James has been working with our elected officials, my office as Administrator and our Economic Development Committee in educating our team on the proposed consolidation and restructuring, as well as, soliciting feedback and suggestions to improve and enhance the overall plan. At a recent regional meeting of our Public Safety Officials, Mr. Kimmel has pledged to meet with every Fire/EMS and Police Departments throughout our region to refine and improve this plan through the critique and recommendations of our communities' public safety professionals.

Our Village President and her Administrative Team are confident that the issues raised by the critics of this plan can be both mitigated and resolved collectively through the determination and creativity which is fostered when we work together as partners for the good of our region. In Olympia Fields, we like to say that "we are not an island unto ourselves, but we are only as strong as the strength of neighbors and our community at large".

Sincerely,

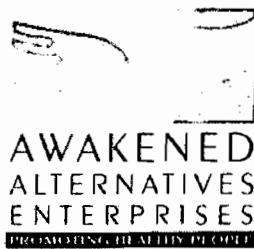


David A. Mekarshi, AICP  
Village Administrator

OFFICE HOURS:

8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Mon.-Tues.-Wed.-Fri.

8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Thursday



COE E-08-16  
CON 14-005

February 8, 2016

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

RE: Franciscan St. James Health-Chicago Heights  
COE E-08-16  
Franciscan St. James Health-Olympia Fields  
CON 16-005

Dear Ms. Avery:

Please accept this letter from Awakened Alternatives, Inc. supporting the Franciscan St. James Health restructuring plan to reorganize in the manner in which it provides health care services in the South Suburban Chicago community. It is our belief that their stated plan serves the needs of the community today and provides a stable platform to ensure that community health care needs are met into the foreseeable future.

Awakened Alternatives, Inc. is a health care management company focused on serving Medicaid, Medicare and Commercial payer markets. We have served the healthcare community for over 24 years in our current south suburban location and we are actively involved in advocacy initiatives that address Chicago Southland health care issues. Working with large Illinois payers and hospital systems gives us insight into current healthcare trends that effect improved patient outcomes as well as provide a foundation for long-term financial stability.

In sharing this letter of support, we want to be on record in support of several specific recommendations that we have brought to the attention of the Franciscan St. James Health senior management team. We hope that these recommendations can be a part of the comprehensive re-structuring of how healthcare is delivered to the greater community that Franciscan St. James Health serves. I will list them individually:

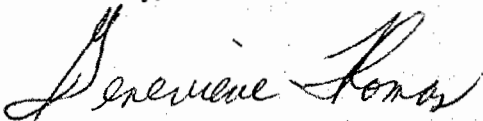
1. We support the consolidation of inpatient services as an appropriate cost savings measure, considering the fact that the two hospitals are less than 5 miles apart from each other. We understand the need for the St. James Health system to be competitive with other hospital systems in the area and that duplication of services is no longer effective management of available resources. Enhancing and expanding the Olympia Fields campus range of available services helps to attract the best providers and new clients. Additionally, being responsive to improving preventive health programs and bolstering primary services are in keeping with today's healthcare trends and best practices.

3235 Vollmer Road • Suite 200 • Flossmoor, IL 60422  
Phone (708) 748-1520 • Fax (708) 748-1790  
[www.AwakenedAlternatives.com](http://www.AwakenedAlternatives.com)

2. We support efforts to ensure adequate transportation to emergency services in Olympia Fields. We have heard on multiple occasions that the hospital system is developing transit plans to better accommodate community needs. Currently, the community views a lack of adequate transportation as an impediment to quality care.
3. We support redirecting capital gains obtained from eliminating current duplication of services into a system of home and community based services focused on prevention, primary care, coordinated discharges and robust home care coordination. This system would include community clinics treating medical and mental health issues. Although the Care-Link program is in place, the level of detailed services provided by Care-Link in the above areas are not well known to community partners and vendors that can be utilized to assist with providing these community based services to the hospital system.
4. We support repurposing the current Chicago Heights facility to be used by viable social service organizations that serve the Chicago Heights community. Ideally, we would like to see the facility include a think tank organization to identify and address the bio-psycho-social needs of the community and the development of a not-for-profit specifically developed to coordinate services and seek state, federal, and private funding to sustain the effort.
5. We support the not-for-profit organization being responsible for gathering statistics on the efficacy of the expanded home and community based services, as it relates to reducing avoidable hospitalization re-admissions and reducing overall emergency service utilization.
6. We support the development of a 12 bed short term/stabilization psychiatric unit to support the efforts of the new outpatient services facility located at Vollmer Road and Dixie Hwy.

The challenge of getting the community to see that current deployment of hospital services and resources are not sustainable going forward are worth the sizeable out-reach effort. The progress made by the hospital system in the last several years is reflective of solid management approaches to a grave financial problem that has to be addressed and improved. We believe that the St. James Health management team is proposing a thoughtful and compassionate plan for change that builds on current successes improving the health of the system and their community pledge of making Franciscan St. James Health one of the best hospital systems in Southland Chicago.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Genevieve Thomas".

Genevieve Thomas  
President