



AUNT MARTHA'S
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January 12, 2015

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

RECEIVED

JAN 15 2016

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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

Dear Ms. Avery,

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

Aunt Martha's has a 40 year history of providing quality care to the underserved and uninsured and is one of the state's largest Federally Qualified Health Centers, operating more than 20 health center sites in suburban, rural, and urban settings throughout metropolitan Chicago and Illinois. Aunt Martha's has been accredited since 1997 for Ambulatory and Behavioral Health by the Joint Commission, the hallmark of healthcare quality. In 2013, we became the first community health center in Illinois to receive certification as a Primary Care Medical Home (PCMH) through the Joint Commission. Our focus on care coordination and an integrated model of care, including essential oral health and behavioral health services, has resulted in increased access and measurably improved outcomes for the patients we serve.

Representatives of Aunt Martha's have had a number of meetings with Franciscan St. James Health representatives relating to the plans for the hospitals and outpatient center on Dixie Highway in Chicago Heights. Based on those meetings we concur that access to the most needed health care services, including primary care, urgent care, and mental health programming will be enhanced through Franciscan St. James' plans.

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

Sincerely,

Raul Garza
President & Chief Executive Officer
Aunt Martha's

