



Pana Community Hospital

April 25, 2017

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

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

RE: Pana Community Hospital, Pana
Project No: 17-007
Letter of Support for two (2) Operating Rooms

Dear Ms. Avery:

As Chief of Surgery at Pana Community Hospital (PCH), I support its application for a new modernized surgical suite with two operating rooms. I have been part of the Medical Staff for over 10 years, and for the last 4 years I have been exclusively at PCH. The present OR suite was last remodeled in 1978 and is in need of replacement. The staff has done a great job of using our current space, but with the changes in technology over the last 10 years it is hard to use that technology in the current space. We presently have two rooms that serve as procedure rooms. We need to continue to have two rooms. Many of our cases are not clean (colonoscopies), and it is not a best practice to do our clean cases (orthopedics) in the same room and not clean ones. Cases that require placement of prosthesis, such as hernia repairs and orthopedic cases, need to be done in a dedicated clean room to avoid post-surgical infections and complications.

In addition, our volume has been expanding. Every year since 2012 our volume by number of cases and time used has steadily gone up, from 20-30 cases in 2012 to over 483 in 2016. Over the past two years our operating room usage increased from 820 hours per year to 1,114, a 36% increase. Our surgeon staffing has also increased during this time, and we now have both an orthopedic surgeon and a urologist in addition to an ophthalmologist and myself (a general surgeon).

I also believe that new ORs will help us to increase volume by retaining more local patients. Some patients perceive older ORs like PCH's to be of lower quality and project that perception onto the services provided there. Consequently, some patients leave town to have procedures performed in newer OR facilities. With new ORs we would also have a better chance of recruiting additional surgeons, which would also result in higher volumes. Last, our volumes will go up with new ORs, because our orthopedic surgeon will be able to perform additional cases, like knee replacements, that he cannot perform in our current ORs.

Pana Community Hospital is providing a great service to people in Pana and surrounding communities. No longer do patients have to travel to Springfield, Decatur, Effingham or Mattoon for routine surgical care!

Thank you for your consideration.

Steven E. Weber, M.D.
Chief of Surgery