

**Public Hearing Testimony in support of Projects 17-036, 17-037, E-036-17, E-037-17**

Over a period of more than 100 years, Centegra Health System has developed and adapted its services to bring the highest-quality health care to the people of McHenry County. Our ability to adapt to changing economic environments has allowed us to continue providing access to needed health care services to the residents of McHenry County for over a century. Centegra has long been and will continue to be committed to improving access to needed health care in McHenry County, and that is possible because of our ability to adapt and change during difficult times.

Centegra is acutely aware that the decision to change is often difficult. Change is needed when the ability to fulfill our core obligation to the community is at risk, and it then becomes our responsibility to make those difficult decisions. The projects now before the Health Facilities and Services Review Board and the subject of the public hearings today are the result of difficult decisions necessitated by changing economics in the health care industry. They are also the result of the type of careful planning and evaluation that has allowed Centegra to continue to serve McHenry County for over a century.

In late 2016 and early 2017, Centegra, like many other health systems in Illinois and across the nation, began to experience an increase in bad debt. At the same time, our payer mix shifted as more patients gained access to Medicaid insurance plans. These developments had a severe impact on Centegra and many other health care providers, as we have seen by actions implemented by a substantial number of other providers in the Chicagoland region. These unforeseen and recent developments arose many years after, and are unrelated to, the approval of Centegra Hospital—Huntley.

These financial shifts coincided with a slowing of the region's population growth and a leveling of volumes at both Centegra Hospital—Huntley and Centegra Hospital-Woodstock. Accordingly, it became necessary for us to identify opportunities to more efficiently provide the high quality care Centegra's Board demands and the community expects.

To identify these opportunities, Centegra engaged The Chartis Group, a comprehensive advisory and analytics services firm that specializes in the health care industry. With Chartis' assistance our goal was to create a Master Facilities Plan for Centegra's three main hospital campuses as well as multiple outpatient locations that would help us to achieve necessary efficiencies while ensuring area residents continue to receive high-quality, local care. Chartis experts provided the guidance we were seeking with the needs of our patients at the center of every conversation as we developed the plan. We were adamant about retaining specialized services within our county and maintaining all three main locations as general hospitals with emergency services.

In June of this year, prior to filing the applications that are the subject of these public hearings, we met with staff members from the Health Facilities and Services Review Board to review our plans and to confirm the legal processes required to implement them in accordance with State law. Having received the reassurance we sought, we announced the plans that are addressed in our applications with the state, that is, to locate all inpatient acute care to our two larger facilities in McHenry and Huntley, and to offer specialized inpatient care and outpatient services in Woodstock. This plan will provide all of the

residents of the community with the greatest access to both acute and specialized care, while keeping emergency services at all locations.

Following the June announcement, Centegra continued to work with state staff to file the necessary notices and paperwork to effect the changes that we had announced. In July and August we submitted the following

- 1) a bed change notice to add Medical/Surgical and Intensive Care beds at McHenry,
- 2) an Exemption application to discontinue Medical/Surgical and Intensive Care at Woodstock
- 3) an Exemption application to discontinue Comprehensive Physical Rehabilitation services in McHenry
- 4) a Certificate of Need Application to open Comprehensive Physical Rehabilitation services in Woodstock
- 5) a Certificate of Need Application to convert four medical surgical beds in our Huntley facility to ICU beds, a higher level of care, and
- 6) a temporary suspension of service notice for Medical/Surgical and Intensive Care services in Woodstock.

The first Exemption application detailed plans to discontinue the Medical-Surgical and Intensive Care categories of service at Centegra Hospital-Woodstock. To increase capacity for acute care services at our other hospital campuses, we submitted a bed change notice to increase the number of Medical-Surgical and Intensive Care beds at Centegra Hospital-McHenry.

At the same time, we submitted a Certificate of Need to convert four Medical-Surgical beds to intensive Care beds at Centegra Hospital-Huntley. The centralization of acute inpatient care improves quality and makes us more efficient by combining all of our staff's expertise into two locations. Due to changes in the way health care providers in the United State provide care, today's hospitalized patients are more acute than ever, and they need care from experienced teams that routinely provide high-quality services.

To create additional space for acute inpatient care at Centegra Hospital-McHenry, Centegra Health System also proposed to move Comprehensive Physical Rehabilitation from Centegra Hospital-McHenry to Centegra Hospital-Woodstock, keeping the same number of beds. According to the state's regulations, this relocation required an Exemption application to discontinue those beds at Centegra Hospital-McHenry and a Certificate of Need application to establish them at Centegra Hospital-Woodstock. We filed both of those applications this summer, and they also are being addressed as part of today's public hearings.

The complexities of the required applications have caused some confusion in the community. There has been misinformation leading some to believe that Centegra moved forward with an "unauthorized



closure" of services at Centegra Hospital-Woodstock. That is simply not true. We met with the State to discuss our plans, confirmed the legal processes required, and complied with those requirements.

Community members have also been misinformed about the legal processes that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board is required to follow regarding Centegra's application to discontinue services. The Review Board, as any State agency, has only the power that the Illinois legislature grants it. The Illinois legislature has determined that the Review Board has no power to deny a health care facility's exemption application to discontinue services once the Board's staff has deemed the application complete.

The law states that "upon a finding that an application to discontinue a category of service for a health care facility is complete and provides the requested information as specified by the State Board, an exemption shall be issued." 20 ILCS 3960/8.5(a-5). The State Board has consistently applied and followed this law as written. In November 2015, the Board's General Counsel advised the Board that this law means that if an exemption application has been deemed complete by the Board's staff, the Review Board shall issue the exemption. In October 2016, the Board's General Counsel advised the Review Board that "the Health Facilities Planning Act requires that ... once [an] exemption application has been deemed complete by staff ... this Board is under an obligation by statute to approve that exemption."

The Health Facilities and Services Review Board is under an obligation by statute to approve Centegra's exemption applications to discontinue services. The applications were deemed complete by the Board's staff on August 18, and the Planning Act requires the exemptions to be issued.

The Review Board's rules and the Illinois Open Meetings Act do provide for public comment on exemption applications, but public hearings and public comment do not affect the law that when an exemption application to discontinue services has been deemed complete by the Board's staff, the State Board is required by law to approve the application.

We emphasize again the difficulty of the decision-making process regarding the discontinuation of services. Centegra Health System's leaders and governing board members live and work in the communities we serve. Many have dedicated decades of their careers to bringing advanced health care services to McHenry County. We carefully considered every option as we created the Master Facilities Plan, and we understand Woodstock's disappointment in our final decision to change services at Centegra Hospital-Woodstock.

In the end, we had to choose what is best for the entire community, which includes more than 30 other cities and villages that also need high-quality, local health care.

These communities also still need access to Comprehensive Physical Rehabilitation, which is why Centegra filed a Certificate of Need to provide these services at Centegra Hospital-Woodstock when it becomes a place for specialty inpatient care. With all of the misinformation and confusion surrounding these projects, we sincerely hope that community members do not inadvertently oppose bringing Comprehensive Physical Rehabilitation Services to Centegra Hospital-Woodstock, which will benefit the

residents of Woodstock with needed services—and the accompanying employment opportunities. Few hospitals offer highly skilled rehabilitation care for strokes, severe orthopedic injuries and amputations, and that is what Centegra's Certificate of Need application proposes to bring to Woodstock.

If Centegra is not allowed to add the inpatient rehab service at Centegra Hospital-Woodstock, that facility could no longer be categorized as a General Hospital, and it would be required to convert to a Psychiatric Hospital instead. This is not a part of our plan or wishes for this community, and we would need to reevaluate how we provide services here if the Certificate of Need to add rehabilitation services to Centegra Hospital-Woodstock is denied.

We understand that the changes Centegra Health System has proposed have not been well received by some. These difficult business decisions will make us more efficient so we can continue to care for McHenry County patients for generations to come. Just as we have been for more than 100 years, the nearly 4,000 Associates of Centegra Health System remain committed to caring for this community.

Thank you.

## Comments for the Centegra Public Hearings 10-02-2017

**5:00-7:00 pm; Application for a Certificate of Exemption (COE) to Discontinue 60 Medical/Surgical Beds, 12 Intensive Care Unit Beds and 5 Operation Room Beds in the Woodstock Hospital (COE #E-036-17)**

Again, my name is Dr. Brian Sager and I am honored to serve as Mayor of the City of Woodstock. And, once again, I would like to thank the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board for hosting these Public Hearings in the City of Woodstock. It has been a long day and we are grateful for your presence and your very professional and accommodating approach to these hearings.

These comments were presented at the 2:00 pm Public Hearing, but with the Board's indulgence, I would like to read them into the record for this session and provide an additional perspective.

Regarding Centegra's *Application for a Certificate of Exemption to Discontinue 60 Medical/ Surgical Beds, 12 Intensive Care Unit Beds and 5 Operation Room Beds in the Woodstock Hospital*, the City of Woodstock rises in opposition of the application.

Please do not interpret my comments today in opposition to the specific application, as comments opposing Centegra Health System. To the contrary, the City of Woodstock and its residents have embraced Centegra since it took over the community's Woodstock Memorial Hospital, established through the vision and hard work of a small group of doctors and a supportive community in 1914 to

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establish a community hospital in Woodstock, the county seat, that would serve not only City residents, but the larger county. Woodstock and Centegra have enjoyed a strongly collaborative and mutually supportive partnership for many years. It seemed natural, therefore, on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 when Centegra Health System appeared before the Woodstock City Council requesting support of their application for a *Certificate of Need for the Construction of a Hospital in Huntley*, for our community to continue its strong tradition of supporting the hospital. Further, since Woodstock Hospital had always been supported as a county, not just community hospital, residents of Woodstock acknowledged the call to support strong regional health care provisions through an expanded Centegra Health System. In the language of the resolution considered on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011:

**WHEREAS, the State of Illinois has identified the planning area in which McHenry County is located as one of only three planning areas in the entire State of Illinois that has a shortage of acute care hospital beds to serve the community; and**

**WHEREAS, in addition to meeting the state's bed need for Health Planning Area A-10, Centegra's proposed hospital would serve Planning Area A-11, less than two miles to the south. According to State figures, this planning area (Northen Kane**

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*County) is the second of three areas in the State where additional beds are needed. Therefore, two of the three planning areas in Illinois with identified hospital bed shortages would be served by Centegra Hospital - Huntley; and WHEREAS, the construction of a hospital in Huntley, Illinois will allow Centegra Health System to address the identified bed need in the area of McHenry County that needs it the most, based upon rapid population growth in the area.*

With these identified regional needs, the assurance of the Administration of Centegra Health System that services at Centegra Woodstock Hospital would not be reduced, and a strong desire to be good regional partners and citizens, the City of Woodstock in trust and good faith supported Centegra's application for a *Certificate of Need* to build the Huntley Hospital.

Since that time, the City quietly accepted the move of obstetrics from Woodstock Hospital to McHenry Hospital and the relocation of orthopedics from Woodstock Hospital to Huntley Hospital. Although disappointing, we accepted the discontinuation of those services in an effort to be good partners with a health system we had trusted, a system that had served our community well, and in an effort to be good regional partners, acknowledging sacrifices sometimes need to



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be made for the greater good; in this case, a more vibrant, comprehensive, regional health care system.

In May of this year, it was announced publicly, before any outreach or communication to the City of Woodstock, that acute in-hospital care beds would be discontinued and there would be an associated change of status in the emergency room services at our Woodstock Hospital. In his comments, Mr. Lawler emphasized the thorough and regular communication Centegra Health System had with staff of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board regarding their plans, but made no comment regarding communication with the community that had supported the hospital and system so enthusiastically over the years. Unfortunately, that communication was non-existent.

The news and the subsequent application for a COE to discontinue 60 medical/surgical beds, 12 intensive care unit beds and 5 operation room beds were understandably met with bitter disappointment. Based upon the long history of support provided for our community hospital by residents and the assurances provided at the time Centegra requested support from the City for the Certificate of Need for a Huntley Hospital, residents have an overwhelming sense of abandonment and betrayal and have responded loudly and consistently with



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their displeasure. The response was not solely generated from a sense of betrayal, however. It was also motivated by a sense of fear.

Individuals and families look to a community hospital with comprehensive health care services, including acute in-patient hospitalization and an associated level of emergency room services, as a source of insurance. Nobody wants to have to use them, but it is a source of security; that is, when needed, it is there. With the loss of these services, there is a strong resulting sense of insecurity and when people feel insecure, they become fearful. When people are fearful, they often respond in anger. Unfortunately, that is the tenor of today's Woodstock.

It is also a source of concern for the long-term economic picture for our community. Over the past couple of weeks, numerous employees of the system have received the devastating news their jobs are being eliminated with tragic effects on the financial well-being of individuals and families, as well as the community-at-large. Further, prospective investors wishing to expand their current business and industry presence in our community or looking to locate new businesses, consider the total picture of a community including essential services. A comprehensive hospital that provides quality, responsive, accessible health care for their employees and families is considered as essential to a feeling of security and quality of life as an exceptional education system. Without a

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hospital providing acute in-patient hospitalization and comprehensive emergency room services in the community, business and industry may be reticent to expand or locate in the City of Woodstock with negative effects on our economic future.

It is certainly recognized, as explained by Centegra officials, that we live in a changing hospital environment. With improving medical technology, something we all want and appreciate, hospital stays are reduced. There is increased emphasis through Federal Government Health Care Programs to reduce in-hospital stays as a way to reduce costs. Medicare provisions and requirements have changed the complexion of compensation. The State of Illinois has an extraordinarily prolonged payment schedule creating difficult cash flow situations for health care providers. And, there is an increasing out-migration of in-patient hospitalization from McHenry County to other regions due to preferred doctor affiliations and hospital specialization.

As a result of these trends and other management decisions, Centegra Health System is facing severe financial challenges, and it is clear, needs to re-configure service provisions across the system for greater efficiencies, viability, sustainability, and it can be argued, enhanced health care quality.

While the changing complexion of the medical industry today and the associated needs for increased efficiencies through focused specialization in hospital facilities

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might warrant a reduction of the number of beds in Woodstock, the total elimination of those acute in-patient hospital beds and the resulting change in the status of the emergency room services is of major concern to the community's sense of security and is certainly contradictory to the assurances our community received from Centegra Health System when asked to support the construction of the Huntley Hospital.

Mr. Lawler suggests there is a lack of understanding on our behalf regarding the legal obligation of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve the Certificate of Exemption to discontinue the identified services in the Woodstock Hospital. Let there be no mistake, we have done our research and are very much aware of the statutory requirements outlined in State Law. In the communication posted to the public last week, we quoted paragraph (b) of Sub-section 6 page 29 of the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act regarding applications for permit or exemption. Specifically:

*(b) The State Board shall establish by regulation the procedures and requirements regarding issuance of exemptions. An exemption shall be approved when information required by the Board by rule is submitted. Projects eligible for an exemption, rather than a permit, include, but are not limited to, change of ownership of a health care facility, discontinuation of a category of service, and discontinuation of a health care facility, other than a health care facility maintained by the State or any agency or department thereof or a nursing home maintained by a county.*



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In the face of this requirement, some ask why go through the process of a Public Hearing? Just like the legal requirement is found in the Statutes, the answer to this question is found in the language of the applications, and the answer is 'need.' According to the previously referenced Act, one of the underlying purposes of the Act is to, *"Promote planning for and development of health care facilities needed for comprehensive health care especially in areas where the health planning process has identified unmet needs"*. Further, the Health Facilities and Services Review Board was *created* to perform the functions described in the Act. When referencing the Board's website, we find, *"The Board, through its certificate of need program aimed at containing health care costs, approves or disapproves applications for construction or expansion of health care facilities to avoid unnecessary duplication of such facilities and (I emphasize here) promotes development of facilities in areas where needed"*. The Board, therefore, has an inherent obligation to facilitate need. Our opportunity in the Public Hearing is to promote an understanding among members of the Board that the need for acute in-patient hospital beds and comprehensive emergency room services, including ICU beds, in the Woodstock Hospital exists now and will continue to exist in the future. Therefore, while we accept the legal obligation the State Board has to approve Centegras application for exemption because



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Information required by the Board by rule was submitted, that approval does not exempt the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board from its inherent obligation to promote development of comprehensive health care facilities in areas where needed.

For these reasons, the City of Woodstock opposes Centegra's application for a *Certificate of Exemption to Discontinue 60 Medical/ Surgical Beds, 12 Intensive Care Unit Beds and 5 Operation Room Beds in the Woodstock Hospital* and respectfully requests the Board to consider its responsibility when approached by other health care providers for a *Certificate of Need* to fill the void in our community created by the abandonment of acute in-patient hospital beds and associated comprehensive emergency room services by Centegra Health System.

Thank you.



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Centegra Hospital – Woodstock

Project Number: E-036-17

I. IDENTIFICATION  
Name (Please Print) Dr. Brian Sager, Mayor of Woodstock  
City Woodstock State Illinois Zip 60098

II. REPRESENTATION (This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of any group, organization or other entity.)  
Entity, Organization, etc. represented in this appearance (i.e., ABC Concerned Citizens for Health Care)  
City of Woodstock

III. POSITION (please circle appropriate position)

Support

Oppose

Neutral

IV. Testimony (please circle)

COE #E-036-17

Oral

Written

10/2/17

## Heal Woodstock's Healthcare

### Petition:

I wish to register my opposition to the removal of medical, surgical, and intensive care hospital services, and reduction in status of emergency room services, at Memorial Medical Center in Woodstock. This ends a 100-year legacy of providing comprehensive hospital services to the Woodstock community, services that impact the physical, emotional and financial health of our residents and our businesses, both current and future. I understand that Memorial Medical Center was a profitable healthcare facility in Woodstock. I therefore encourage the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to react swiftly and positively to any future applications by qualified healthcare providers to replace these essential services, thereby restoring a cherished sense of security for our valued families and citizens.



# Heal Woodstock's Healthcare

## Submission Details

| Serial | Submitted Time  | First Name | Last Name  | Address                 | City         | State    | Zip Code | E-mail Address                  | I Agree |
|--------|-----------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|--------------|----------|----------|---------------------------------|---------|
| 1      | 9/18/2017 19:07 | Mary Kay   | Etten      | 5303 Abbey Dr           | McHenry      | Illinois | 60050    | marykayetten@gmail.com          | Yes     |
| 2      | 9/19/2017 8:39  | Matthew    | Welch      | 220 clover chase cir.   | Woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    | matthewwelch220@gmail.com       | Yes     |
| 3      | 9/19/2017 8:41  | Hayley     | Welch      | 220 clover chase cir    | Woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    | hwelch0616@gmail.com            | Yes     |
| 4      | 9/19/2017 15:14 | James      | Ponstein   | 328 Burbank Ave.        | Woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    | jponstein@sbcglobal.net         | Yes     |
| 5      | 9/19/2017 17:57 | Donna      | Edwards    | 233 Washington St #2    | Woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    | dedwards0829@gmail.com          | Yes     |
| 6      | 9/20/2017 17:03 | Jennifer   | Kowal      | 8604 Regnier Rd         | Hebron       | Illinois | 60034    | Jenniferannkowal@gmail.com      | Yes     |
| 7      | 9/20/2017 17:04 | Jeff       | Kowal      | 8604 Regnier Rd         | Hebron       | Illinois | 60034    | jjkowal@aol.com                 | Yes     |
| 8      | 9/21/2017 17:44 | Steven     | Kirkham    | 19704 Dunham Road       | Woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    | stevek19704@gmail.com           | Yes     |
| 9      | 9/22/2017 10:54 | Michael    | Ratliff    | 820 Southview Drive     | Woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    | bertiemike67@gmail.com          | Yes     |
| 10     | 9/23/2017 16:45 | Ronald     | denley     | 3303 vermohr road       | woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    | ron8864@sbcglobal.net           | Yes     |
| 11     | 9/23/2017 16:48 | Alice      | Denley     | 3303 vermohr road       | woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    | ron8864@sbcglobal.net           | Yes     |
| 12     | 9/25/2017 18:45 | Julie      | Roush      | 311 Kildeer             | Woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    | julier15@yahoo.com              | Yes     |
| 13     | 9/27/2017 11:59 | Iisa       | wood       | 710 gerry street        | Woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    | lwood3344@aol.com               | Yes     |
| 14     | 9/27/2017 12:25 | Kathleen   | Walkington | 14121 W South Street Rd | Woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    | kmwalkin@hotmail.com            | Yes     |
| 15     | 9/27/2017 12:38 | stacy      | barden     | 800 twelve oaks parkway | woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    | sbarden@sbcglobal.net           | Yes     |
| 16     | 9/27/2017 17:12 | Angela     | Thuma      | 528 Barbary Lane        | Woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    | acthuma@sbcglobal.net           | Yes     |
| 17     | 9/28/2017 9:46  | Thomas     | Mishler    | 2103 Edgewood Drive     | Woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    | wingrider95@comcast.net         | Yes     |
| 18     | 9/28/2017 12:37 | Raymond    | Beth       | 303 Hoy Ave             | Woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    | postalopera@yahoo.com           | Yes     |
| 19     | 9/28/2017 13:10 | Kyle       | Schultz    | 331 Fox Lane            | Woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    | kylekatie schultz@sbcglobal.net | Yes     |
| 20     | 9/29/2017 8:57  | Michael    | White      | 1546 Bobolink Circle    | Woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    | moewhite@ix.netcom.com          | Yes     |
| 21     | 9/29/2017 12:12 | Melissa    | Cooney     | 879 Victoria Drive      | Woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    | bears879@aol.com                | Yes     |
| 22     | 9/29/2017 12:13 | Robert     | Nocera     | 869 Victoria Drive      | Woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    |                                 | Yes     |
| 23     | 9/29/2017 13:25 | Michael    | Hill       | 571 N. Sharon Drive     | Woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    | mhill@wfrd.org                  | Yes     |
| 24     | 9/29/2017 13:56 | Matt       | Hedges     | 1411 Sandpiper Lane     | Woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    | mihedges17@gmail.com            | Yes     |
| 25     | 9/29/2017 17:41 | Paul       | Heideman   | 9135 Marissa Trail      | Wonder Lake  | Illinois | 60097    | proacer405@yahoo.com            | Yes     |
| 26     | 9/29/2017 21:39 | Joan       | Pierce     | 1506 Walnut Drive       | Woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    | theodorepierce@comcast.net      | Yes     |
| 27     | 9/29/2017 21:41 | Theodore   | Pierce     | 1506 Walnut Drive       | Woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    | theodorepierce@comcast.net      | Yes     |
| 28     | 9/30/2017 11:05 | Mike       | Lukas      | 10016 Hidden Lane       | Woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    |                                 | Yes     |
| 29     | 9/30/2017 11:07 | Vytautas   | Lukas      | 10016 Hidden Lane       | Woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    |                                 | Yes     |
| 30     | 10/1/2017 10:18 | Diane      | Morris     | 7766 E. Monticello Way  | Crystal Lake | Illinois | 60014    | mmorrisdiane13@yahoo.com        | Yes     |
| 31     | 10/1/2017 15:35 | Terry      | Smiley     | 674 Dane Street         | Woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    | cksmiley50@gmail.com            | Yes     |
| 32     | 10/1/2017 15:36 | Terry      | Smiley     | 674 Dane Street         | Woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    | cksmiley50@gmail.com            | Yes     |
| 33     | 10/1/2017 18:42 | Scott      | Nieman     | 902 Powers Rd.          | Woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    | snlieman@wfrd.org               | Yes     |
| 34     | 10/1/2017 19:10 | Karen      | DeWane     | 1011 S Jefferson St     | Woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    | kdewane922@att.net              | Yes     |
| 35     | 10/1/2017 20:59 | Lynn       | White      | 1546 Bobolink Circle    | Woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    | revlwhit@ix.netcom.com          | Yes     |
| 36     | 10/1/2017 21:54 | Daniel     | Jagman     | 2460 Vivaldi            | Woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    | djagman@wfrd.org                | Yes     |
| 37     | 10/2/2017 9:01  | Jane       | Howie      | 1311 Louise Street      | Crystal Lake | Illinois | 60014    | jhowie@woodstockil.gov          | Yes     |
| 38     | 10/2/2017 9:54  | Delores    | Hartlieb   | 749 N.Sharon Dr.        | Woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    | deeldh24@gmail.com              | Yes     |
| 39     | 10/2/2017 11:23 | Katie      | Day        | 415 Washington St.      | Woodstock    | Illinois | 60098    | katherinejday@gmail.com         | Yes     |



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| Marilyn Grandette   | 5312 Timber Ln.      | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 | N/A                             |
| Marilyn Hill        | 525 Quail            | "         | IL    | 60098 |                                 |
| Margaret Bassieco   | 571 Des Moines Dr    | "         | IL    | 60098 | N/A                             |
| Robert G. Melus     | 111 Peachtree Ave    | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 | N/A                             |
| Tom Shultz          | 605 E. Calhoun St    | "         | IL    | 60098 | N/A                             |
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| Josephine Smith     | 19203 Bunker Hill Rd | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 | msmith@jgilmail.com             |
| LELANI KENNING      | 616 DAVE ST          | WOODSTOCK | IL    | 60098 | lalani1001@yahoo.com            |
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| Nancy J. Moore      | 831 Victorian Dr     | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |                                 |

|          | Address              | City      | State | Zip   | Email |
|----------|----------------------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| Arnold   | 1107 IL Route 23     | Harvard   | IL    | 60033 |       |
| Arnold   | 107 IL Route 23      | Harvard   | IL    | 60033 |       |
| HAR      | 508 LAKE AVE APT #3  | WOODSTOCK | IL    | 60098 |       |
| Quey     | 701 Duval Dr.        | WOODSTOCK | IL    | 60098 |       |
| Thompson | 522 Crescent Pl      | WOODSTOCK | IL    | 60098 |       |
| Botts    | 514 W. Kimball Ave   | WOODSTOCK | IL    | 60098 |       |
| REUBEN   | 937 Laurel Ave       | WOODSTOCK | IL    | 60098 |       |
| Leppard  | 203 Summit           | WOODSTOCK | IL    | 60098 |       |
| Leppard  | "                    | "         | "     | "     |       |
| Leppard  | 9305 Burlington Rd W | WOODSTOCK | IL    | 60098 |       |
| Miller   | 695 Silver Creek Rd  | WOODSTOCK | IL    | 60098 |       |
| Heaton   | 914 Pleasant         | WOODSTOCK | IL    | 60098 |       |
| Heaton   | 700 Duval            | WOODSTOCK | IL    | 60098 |       |
| Heaton   | 1132 Gerry St        | WOODSTOCK | IL    | 60098 |       |
| Heaton   | 680 Barbary          | WOODSTOCK | IL    | 60098 |       |
| Heaton   | 1355 Blakely         | "         | "     | "     |       |
| Heaton   | 1507 Boulder St      | "         | "     | "     |       |
| Heaton   | 1026 Handel Ln       | WOODSTOCK | IL    | 60098 |       |
| Heaton   | 310 Fremont          | WOODSTOCK | IL    | 60098 |       |
| Heaton   | 1506 Boulder Lane    | WOODSTOCK | IL    | 60098 |       |
| Heaton   | 636 Handel Ln        | WOODSTOCK | IL    | 60098 |       |
| Heaton   | 1006 Hidden Ln       | WOODSTOCK | IL    | 60098 |       |
| Heaton   | 1416 Williams Ave    | WOODSTOCK | IL    | 60098 |       |



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| Kristina V. Redemsky | 1149 Greenwood Cir  | Woodstock | IL    | 60093 | kredemsky@gmail.com      |
| Patricia E. Eichen   | 3325 Applewood Dr   | Woodstock | IL    | 60093 |                          |
| Jan VanDerspool      | 8708 Bull Run Trail | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |                          |
| Doreen Paluch        | 517 Deane St.       | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 | DTPaluch@SBCglobal.net   |
| Deuce Beck           | 843 Queen Anne St.  | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |                          |
| Rick Hoyt            | 1323 Blakey         | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |                          |
| Myth Thurst          | 779 Reguire         | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 | myththurst@myglobal.net  |
| <del>Shirley</del>   |                     |           |       |       |                          |
| Linda Fosquist       | 1009 Greenbush St   | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 | Linda.Fosquist@gmail.com |
| Shelley Nickele      | 416 Cerey St        | "         | "     | 60098 | set0649@yahoo.com        |
| Donald W. Hess       | 225 Pleasant        | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 | hess.don@comcast.net     |
| Debra M. Thompson    | 760 Jerome Ave      | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |                          |
| Janet L. Gandy       | 760 Jerome Dr       | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |                          |





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|          | 1224 Walden Oaks Dr | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |       |

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| David Dwyer       | 13005 Jeanbau St Rd      | Woodstock | IL    | 60078 | fatfindo7@aol.com            |
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| Nate Grindel      | 1927 Tappan              | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 | ngrindelade@gmail.com        |
| Cheryl Madden     | 17847 W. Cheryne         | Graylake  | IL    | 60030 | cmaddeneyaho.com             |
| Jeffrey Jorgensen | 1319 N. St. N. W.        | Woodstock | IL    | 60078 | cjsawmte@gmail.com           |
| Wendy K Siegel    | 207 Fremont              | Woodstock | IL    | 60078 | mgdaway141@gmail.com         |
| Janice Novakowski | 9603 Spring Lane         | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 | janninenovakowski@gmail.com  |
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| Stephanie Small   | 2899 W Bondine           | Lakeview  | IL    | 60051 | stephaniesmall@yahoo.com     |
| Susan Wilkins     | 603 Handel Ln            | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 | SusanWilkinson1155@yahoo.com |
| Melinda Matthews  | 603 Handel Ln            | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 | mattheewebster@yahoo.com     |
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| Janet Sullivan    | 2301 Commons Rd          | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 | equus2@yahoo.net             |
| Willis J. J. J.   | 1101 E. H. H.            | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |                              |
| Pauline Nelson    | 1900 Lakewood Dr         | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 | paulinenelson@gmail.com      |
| Amber Hamilton    | 1027 Quinden Ln          | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 | amandapaper@yahoo.com        |
| Jeff K. K.        | 627 Quinden Ln           | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 | Jeff.K.K.@yahoo.com          |
| Jessica K. K.     | 1010 Nelson Rd           | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 | jizta25@gmail.com            |
| Julia Taylor      | 7316 Little Fox          | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 | replurjudice@yahoo.com       |
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| Amber Hamilton    | 1740 Butterfield Rd      | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |                              |
| Andrew J. J.      | 10109 Nelson Rd          | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |                              |
| Eric George       | 15015 N. S. Hwy 14       | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 | engage@gmail.com             |
| George W. W.      | 2365 Lake Ave            | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |                              |
| Rachel Bellavia   | 1032 Winslow Ave         | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 | belavin.rachel@gmail.com     |

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| Wanda B. Winkler   | 1023 Windsor Ave     | Woodstock | IL    | 60078 |                  |
| Donna Gable        | 714 Verni St         | Woodstock | IL    | 60078 |                  |
| James D. Gable     | 402 So. Terrence     | Woodstock | IL    | 60078 |                  |
| Paul Cunningham    | 720 Washington St.   | Woodstock | IL    | 60078 |                  |
| Larry Jones        | 81 Dale Ave          | Woodstock | IL    | 60078 |                  |
| Shirley Kephart    | 1281 Hawthorn        | Woodstock | IL    | 60078 |                  |
| Samuel G. Gable    | 307 Franklinville Rd | Woodstock | IL    | 60078 |                  |
| Jean Feely         | 116 1/2 N. Benton St | Woodstock | IL    | 60078 |                  |
| Zak Feely          | 116 1/2 N. Benton St | Woodstock | IL    | 60078 |                  |
| Michael Gable      | 506 Dean St          | Woodstock | IL    | 60078 |                  |
| Chris Slebois      | 503 Dean St          | Woodstock | IL    | 60078 |                  |
| Michael Gable      | 518 Barker St        | Woodstock | IL    | 60078 |                  |
| Paige Santiago     | 225 Springfield Dr   | Woodstock | IL    | 60078 |                  |
| Christine Holladay | 1223 Yaskin Dr       | Woodstock | IL    | 60078 |                  |
| Judy Thornton      | 3215 N. IL Rte. 23   | Woodstock | IL    | 60078 |                  |
| Ray Thornton       | 3315 N. IL Rte. 23   | Woodstock | IL    | 60078 |                  |
| Dianne Mitchell    | 10061 Cummings St.   | Woodstock | IL    | 60078 |                  |
| Christa Coetzer    | 271 Redwing Dr.      | Woodstock | IL    | 60078 |                  |
| Christa Anderson   | 847 DuVine Dr        | Woodstock | IL    | 60078 | Christa Anderson |

| Name                     | Address                         | City      | State | Zip   | Email               |
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| Kendall Jct. Farber Road | 2000 S. St.                     | Woodstock | IL    | 60091 | julie@starglobe.net |
| Lottie Schuler           | 929 Laurel Ave.                 | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |                     |
| Gene Sandburgh           | 620 Olson St.                   | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |                     |
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| Barbara Carrell          | 1145 Blake St.                  | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |                     |
| Ran Hansen               | 13000 Lawrence Rd.              | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |                     |
| Barbara Oughton          | 1132 Gerry St.                  | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |                     |
| STANLEY, BROWN           | 127 SENECA TR                   | MARIETTA  | IL    | 60152 |                     |
| Paul Stevens             | 145 So. Line Dr.                | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |                     |
| Shirley Sue              | 621 Baker Ave.                  | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |                     |
| Val Kott                 | 1604 Thompson Rd.               | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |                     |
| Tommy Magg               | 3813 Peachtree                  | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |                     |
| Carol Tompkins           | 9206 W. Waukegan                | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |                     |
| Ray Desiderio            | 713 Hickory Rd.                 | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |                     |
| Martha Casolino          | 1506 Boulder Lane               | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |                     |
| Ken Larson               | 1498 White Oak Lane             | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |                     |
| RICHARD R. LARSON        | 1498 WHITE OAK LANE             | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |                     |
| Mary Nite                | 1018 Hawthorn St.               | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |                     |
| Jim Prindiville          | 244 W. Tudd St.                 | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |                     |
| Michael Zern             | 324 N. Seward St.               | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |                     |
| Robert Lee Jones         | 1390 Portage                    | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |                     |
| MICHAEL STANARO          | 935 Victoria Drive              | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |                     |
| Paul J. Pennington       | 1348 Prairie St.                | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |                     |
| Paul J. Pennington       | 2001 Olmstead Dr.               | Woodstock | IL    | 60098 |                     |



**Public Hearing Testimony in support of Projects 17-036, 17-037, E-036-17, E-037-17**

Over a period of more than 100 years, Centegra Health System has developed and adapted its services to bring the highest-quality health care to the people of McHenry County. Our ability to adapt to changing economic environments has allowed us to continue providing access to needed health care services to the residents of McHenry County for over a century. Centegra has long been and will continue to be committed to improving access to needed health care in McHenry County, and that is possible because of our ability to adapt and change during difficult times.

Centegra is acutely aware that the decision to change is often difficult. Change is needed when the ability to fulfill our core obligation to the community is at risk, and it then becomes our responsibility to make those difficult decisions. The projects now before the Health Facilities and Services Review Board and the subject of the public hearings today are the result of difficult decisions necessitated by changing economics in the health care industry. They are also the result of the type of careful planning and evaluation that has allowed Centegra to continue to serve McHenry County for over a century.

In late 2016 and early 2017, Centegra, like many other health systems in Illinois and across the nation, began to experience an increase in bad debt. At the same time, our payer mix shifted as more patients gained access to Medicaid insurance plans. These developments had a severe impact on Centegra and many other health care providers, as we have seen by actions implemented by a substantial number of other providers in the Chicagoland region. These unforeseen and recent developments arose many years after, and are unrelated to, the approval of Centegra Hospital—Huntley.

These financial shifts coincided with a slowing of the region's population growth and a leveling of volumes at both Centegra Hospital—Huntley and Centegra Hospital—Woodstock. Accordingly, it became necessary for us to identify opportunities to more efficiently provide the high quality care Centegra's Board demands and the community expects.

To identify these opportunities, Centegra engaged The Chartis Group, a comprehensive advisory and analytics services firm that specializes in the health care industry. With Chartis' assistance our goal was to create a Master Facilities Plan for Centegra's three main hospital campuses as well as multiple outpatient locations that would help us to achieve necessary efficiencies while ensuring area residents continue to receive high-quality, local care. Chartis experts provided the guidance we were seeking with the needs of our patients at the center of every conversation as we developed the plan. We were adamant about retaining specialized services within our county and maintaining all three main locations as general hospitals with emergency Services.

In June of this year, prior to filing the applications that are the subject of these public hearings, we met with staff members from the Health Facilities and Services Review Board to review our plans and to confirm the legal processes required to implement them in accordance with State law. Having received the reassurance we sought, we announced the plans that are addressed in our applications with the state, that is, to locate all inpatient *acute* care to our two larger facilities in McHenry and Huntley, and to *offer specialized* inpatient care and outpatient services in Woodstock. This plan will provide all of the

residents of the community with the greatest access to both acute and specialized care, while keeping emergency services at all locations.

Following the June announcement, Centegra continued to work with state staff to file the necessary notices and paperwork to effect the changes that we had announced. In July and August we submitted the following

- 1) a bed change notice to add Medical/Surgical and Intensive Care beds at McHenry,
- 2) an Exemption application to discontinue Medical/Surgical and Intensive Care at Woodstock
- 3) an Exemption application to discontinue Comprehensive Physical Rehabilitation services in McHenry
- 4) a Certificate of Need Application to open Comprehensive Physical Rehabilitation services in Woodstock
- 5) a Certificate of Need Application to convert four medical surgical beds in our Huntley facility to ICU beds, a higher level of care, and
- 6) a temporary suspension of service notice for Medical/Surgical and Intensive Care services in Woodstock.

The first Exemption application detailed plans to discontinue the Medical-Surgical and Intensive Care categories of service at Centegra Hospital-Woodstock. To increase capacity for acute care services at our other hospital campuses, we submitted a bed change notice to increase the number of Medical-Surgical and Intensive Care beds at Centegra Hospital-McHenry.

At the same time, we submitted a Certificate of Need to convert four Medical-Surgical beds to Intensive Care beds at Centegra Hospital-Huntley. The centralization of acute inpatient care improves quality and makes us more efficient by combining all of our staff's expertise into two locations. Due to changes in the way health care providers in the United State provide care, today's hospitalized patients are more acute than ever, and they need care from experienced teams that routinely provide high-quality services.

To create additional space for acute inpatient care at Centegra Hospital-McHenry, Centegra Health System also proposed to move Comprehensive Physical Rehabilitation from Centegra Hospital-McHenry to Centegra Hospital-Woodstock, keeping the same number of beds. According to the state's regulations, this relocation required an Exemption application to discontinue those beds at Centegra Hospital-McHenry and a Certificate of Need application to establish them at Centegra Hospital-Woodstock. We filed both of those applications this summer, and they also are being addressed as part of today's public hearings.

The complexities of the required applications have caused some confusion in the community. There has been misinformation leading some to believe that Centegra moved forward with an "unauthorized



closure" of services at Centegra Hospital-Woodstock. That is simply not true. We met with the State to discuss our plans, confirmed the legal processes required, and complied with those requirements.

Community members have also been misinformed about the legal processes that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board is required to follow regarding Centegra's application to discontinue services. The Review Board, as any State agency, has only the power that the Illinois legislature grants it. The Illinois legislature has determined that the Review Board has no power to deny a health care facility's exemption application to discontinue services once the Board's staff has deemed the application complete.

The law states that "upon a finding that an application to discontinue a category of service for a health care facility is complete and provides the requested information as specified by the State Board, an exemption shall be issued," 20 ILCS 3960/8.5(a-5). The State Board has consistently applied and followed this law as written. In November 2015, the Board's General Counsel advised the Board that this law means that if an exemption application has been deemed complete by the Board's staff, the Review Board shall issue the exemption. In October 2016, the Board's General Counsel advised the Review Board that "the Health Facilities Planning Act requires that ... once [an] exemption application has been deemed complete by staff ... this Board is under an obligation by statute to approve that exemption."

The Health Facilities and Services Review Board is under an obligation by statute to approve Centegra's exemption applications to discontinue services. The applications were deemed complete by the Board's staff on August 18, and the Planning Act requires the exemptions to be issued.

The Review Board's rules and the Illinois Open Meetings Act do provide for public comment on exemption applications, but public hearings and public comment do not affect the law that when an exemption application to discontinue services has been deemed complete by the Board's staff, the State Board is required by law to approve the application.

We emphasize again the difficulty of the decision-making process regarding the discontinuation of services. Centegra Health System's leaders and governing board members live and work in the communities we serve. Many have dedicated decades of their careers to bringing advanced health care services to McHenry County. We carefully considered every option as we created the Master Facilities Plan, and we understand Woodstock's disappointment in our final decision to change services at Centegra Hospital-Woodstock.

In the end, we had to choose what is best for the entire community, which includes more than 30 other cities and villages that also need high-quality, local health care.

These communities also still need access to Comprehensive Physical Rehabilitation, which is why Centegra filed a Certificate of Need to provide these services at Centegra Hospital-Woodstock when it becomes a place for specialty inpatient care. With all of the misinformation and confusion surrounding these projects, we sincerely hope that community members do not inadvertently oppose bringing Comprehensive Physical Rehabilitation Services to Centegra Hospital-Woodstock, which will benefit the



residents of Woodstock with needed services –and the accompanying employment opportunities. Few hospitals offer highly skilled rehabilitation care for strokes, severe orthopedic injuries and amputations, and that is what Centegra's Certificate of Need application proposes to bring to Woodstock.

If Centegra is not allowed to add the inpatient rehab service at Centegra Hospital-Woodstock, that facility could no longer be categorized as a General Hospital, and it would be required to convert to a Psychiatric Hospital instead. This is not a part of our plan or wishes for this community, and we would need to reevaluate how we provide services here if the Certificate of Need to add rehabilitation services to Centegra Hospital-Woodstock is denied.

We understand that the changes Centegra Health System has proposed have not been well received by some. These difficult business decisions will make us more efficient so we can continue to care for McHenry County patients for generations to come. Just as we have been for more than 100 years, the nearly 4,000 Associates of Centegra Health System remain committed to caring for this community.

Thank you.

## Comments for the Centegra Public Hearings 10-02-2017

quality. There is a growing need in our community, and the larger region, for hospital beds dedicated to physical, <sup>rehabilitation, as well as</sup> behavioral and drug and alcohol rehabilitation, and the possibility of concentrating these services in the Woodstock Hospital would allow increased professional health care provision efficiencies. Further, these services are frequently associated with family attention and support, and focusing such services in the center of our county would provide enhanced regional access. Such concentration of Centegra Health System's rehabilitation services in the City of Woodstock could also offer opportunities for economic development as ancillary service businesses develop around the hospital to support an expanded regional rehabilitation center. For these reasons, the City of Woodstock supports Centegra's application for a *Certificate of Need to Establish 22 Rehabilitation Beds in the Woodstock Hospital*. Thank you.

## Comments for the Centegra Public Hearings 10-02-2017

**11:00 am – 12:00 noon; Application for a Certificate of Need (CON) to Establish 22 Rehabilitation Beds in the Woodstock Hospital** (CON #17-036)

My name is Dr. Brian Sager and it is my honor to serve as Mayor of the City of Woodstock. I would first like to thank the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board for hosting these Public Hearings in the City of Woodstock. Since Centegra Health System announced in May their plans to discontinue <sup>acute</sup> in-patient hospitalization and reduce the level of emergency room services in their Woodstock Hospital, there has been incredible concern and a constant and audible outcry on behalf of the residents of our community and we are grateful for the opportunity to engage in these Public Hearings to express our individual and collective thoughts and concerns on the applications which are to be considered by the Board at your November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting in Bollingbrook. With the Board's indulgence, I will present introductory comments at the onset of each of the hearings and state the City's position on the filed applications. With regards to the *Application for a Certificate of Need to Establish 22 Rehabilitation Beds in the Woodstock Hospital*, the City of Woodstock is a proponent and supports the application. It is clear Centegra Health System needs to re-configure service provisions across the system for greater efficiencies and, it could be argued, enhanced health care

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**Public Hearing Testimony in support of Projects 17-036, 17-037, E-036-17, E-037-17**

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We understand that the changes Centegra Health System has proposed have not been well received by some. These difficult business decisions will make us more efficient so we can continue to care for McHenry County patients for generations to come. Just as we have been for more than 100 years, the nearly 4,000 Associates of Centegra Health System remain committed to caring for this community.

Thank you.

## Comments for the Centegra Public Hearings 10-02-2017

### 1:00-2:00 pm; Application for a Certificate of Need (CON) to Convert 4 Medical/Surgical Beds to Intensive Care Unit Beds in the Huntley Hospital (CON #17-037)

Once again, my name is Dr. Brian Sager, Mayor of the City of Woodstock. With regards to the *Application for a Certificate of Need to Convert 4 Medical/Surgical Beds to Intensive Care Unit Beds in the Huntley Hospital*, the City of Woodstock is neither a proponent nor opponent and adopts a neutral position on the application.

Although it is generally recognized and one could argue that the conversion of 4 medical/surgical beds to intensive care unit beds in the Huntley Hospital is a direct replacement of the intensive care unit beds considered for discontinuance in the Woodstock Hospital, an application to which we will object, it must be acknowledged there is a growing population in the southern part of McHenry County and northern part of Kane County and, further, with the establishment of Sun City in Huntley, the health care demands of an aging population relative to cardiac, pulmonary and stroke emergency response, care and remediation are high.

That does **not** diminish similar demands from the large northwest, western and central portions of the county of course, and ready access to intensive care unit

## Comments for the Centegra Public Hearings 10-02-2017

beds in the Woodstock Hospital, at the center of the county, are of paramount concern to our residents and the larger region.

However, the question of the application specifically addresses the conversion of beds in the Huntley Hospital and it must be presumed the application is made to meet the demands of the residents of Huntley and the surrounding population in southern McHenry and northern Kane Counties. It must be further presumed Centegra Health System has conducted a thorough analysis of the demands for such services in that region and determined a need currently exists and will continue to exist well into the future for increased intensive care unit provisions in the Huntley Hospital based upon population growth and demographics. With similar concerns for our Woodstock residents, one can hardly deny residents of that area ready access to such essential health security provisions. The question, therefore, is a matter for the Huntley community to address and should not be a point of objection from the City of Woodstock.

For these reasons, the City of Woodstock adopts a neutral position on Centegra's application for a *Certificate of Need to Convert 4 Medical/Surgical Beds to Intensive Care Unit Beds in the Huntley Hospital*.



**Public Hearing Testimony in support of Projects 17-036, 17-037, E-036-17, E-037-17**

Over a period of more than 100 years, Centegra Health System has developed and adapted its services to bring the highest-quality health care to the people of McHenry County. Our ability to adapt to changing economic environments has allowed us to continue providing access to needed health care services to the residents of McHenry County for over a century. Centegra has long been and will continue to be committed to improving access to needed health care in McHenry County, and that is possible because of our ability to adapt and change during difficult times.

Centegra is acutely aware that the decision to change is often difficult. Change is needed when the ability to fulfill our core obligation to the community is at risk, and it then becomes our responsibility to make those difficult decisions. The projects now before the Health Facilities and Services Review Board and the subject of the public hearings today are the result of difficult decisions necessitated by changing economics in the health care industry. They are also the result of the type of careful planning and evaluation that has allowed Centegra to continue to serve McHenry County for over a century.

In late 2016 and early 2017, Centegra, like many other health systems in Illinois and across the nation, began to experience an increase in bad debt. At the same time, our payer mix shifted as more patients gained access to Medicaid insurance plans. These developments had a severe impact on Centegra and many other health care providers, as we have seen by actions implemented by a substantial number of other providers in the Chicagoland region. These unforeseen and recent developments arose many years after, and are unrelated to, the approval of Centegra Hospital—Huntley.

These financial shifts coincided with a slowing of the region's population growth and a leveling of volumes at both Centegra Hospital—Huntley and Centegra Hospital—Woodstock. Accordingly, it became necessary for us to identify opportunities to more efficiently provide the high quality care Centegra's Board demands and the community expects.

To identify these opportunities, Centegra engaged The Chartis Group, a comprehensive advisory and analytics services firm that specializes in the health care industry. With Chartis' assistance our goal was to create a Master Facilities Plan for Centegra's three main hospital campuses as well as multiple outpatient locations that would help us to achieve necessary efficiencies while ensuring area residents continue to receive high-quality, local care. Chartis experts provided the guidance we were seeking with the needs of our patients at the center of every conversation as we developed the plan. We were adamant about retaining specialized services within our county and maintaining all three main locations as general hospitals with emergency services.

In June of this year, prior to filing the applications that are the subject of these public hearings, we met with staff members from the Health Facilities and Services Review Board to review our plans and to confirm the legal processes required to implement them in accordance with State law. Having received the reassurance we sought, we announced the plans that are addressed in our applications with the state, that is, to locate all inpatient *acute* care to our two larger facilities in McHenry and Huntley, and to offer *specialized* inpatient care and outpatient services in Woodstock. This plan will provide all of the

residents of the community with the greatest access to both acute and specialized care, while keeping emergency services at all locations.

Following the June announcement, Centegra continued to work with state staff to file the necessary notices and paperwork to effect the changes that we had announced. In July and August we submitted the following

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The first Exemption application detailed plans to discontinue the Medical-Surgical and Intensive Care categories of service at Centegra Hospital-Woodstock. To increase capacity for acute care services at our other hospital campuses, we submitted a bed change notice to increase the number of Medical-Surgical and Intensive Care beds at Centegra Hospital-McHenry.

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To create additional space for acute inpatient care at Centegra Hospital-McHenry, Centegra Health System also proposed to move Comprehensive Physical Rehabilitation from Centegra Hospital-McHenry to Centegra Hospital-Woodstock, keeping the same number of beds. According to the state's regulations, this relocation required an Exemption application to discontinue those beds at Centegra Hospital-McHenry and a Certificate of Need application to establish them at Centegra Hospital-Woodstock. We filed both of those applications this summer, and they also are being addressed as part of today's public hearings.

The complexities of the required applications have caused some confusion in the community. There has been misinformation leading some to believe that Centegra moved forward with an "unauthorized



closure" of services at Centegra Hospital-Woodstock. That is simply not true. We met with the State to discuss our plans, confirmed the legal processes required, and complied with those requirements.

Community members have also been misinformed about the legal processes that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board is required to follow regarding Centegra's application to discontinue services. The Review Board, as any State agency, has only the power that the Illinois legislature grants it. The Illinois legislature has determined that the Review Board has no power to deny a health care facility's exemption application to discontinue services once the Board's staff has deemed the application complete.

The law states that "upon a finding that an application to discontinue a category of service for a health care facility is complete and provides the requested information as specified by the State Board, an exemption shall be issued," 20 ILCS 3960/8.5(a-5). The State Board has consistently applied and followed this law as written. In November 2015, the Board's General Counsel advised the Board that this law means that if an exemption application has been deemed complete by the Board's staff, the Review Board shall issue the exemption. In October 2016, the Board's General Counsel advised the Review Board that "the Health Facilities Planning Act requires that ... once [an] exemption application has been deemed complete by staff ... this Board is under an obligation by statute to approve that exemption."

The Health Facilities and Services Review Board is under an obligation by statute to approve Centegra's exemption applications to discontinue services. The applications were deemed complete by the Board's staff on August 18, and the Planning Act requires the exemptions to be issued.

The Review Board's rules and the Illinois Open Meetings Act do provide for public comment on exemption applications, but public hearings and public comment do not affect the law that when an exemption application to discontinue services has been deemed complete by the Board's staff, the State Board is required by law to approve the application.

We emphasize again the difficulty of the decision-making process regarding the discontinuation of services. Centegra Health System's leaders and governing board members live and work in the communities we serve. Many have dedicated decades of their careers to bringing advanced health care services to McHenry County. We carefully considered every option as we created the Master Facilities Plan, and we understand Woodstock's disappointment in our final decision to change services at Centegra Hospital-Woodstock.

In the end, we had to choose what is best for the entire community, which includes more than 30 other cities and villages that also need high-quality, local health care.

These communities also still need access to Comprehensive Physical Rehabilitation, which is why Centegra filed a Certificate of Need to provide these services at Centegra Hospital-Woodstock when it becomes a place for specialty inpatient care. With all of the misinformation and confusion surrounding these projects, we sincerely hope that community members do not inadvertently oppose bringing Comprehensive Physical Rehabilitation Services to Centegra Hospital-Woodstock, which will benefit the



residents of Woodstock with needed services—and the accompanying employment opportunities. Few hospitals offer highly skilled rehabilitation care for strokes, severe orthopedic injuries and amputations, and that is what Centegra's Certificate of Need application proposes to bring to Woodstock.

If Centegra is not allowed to add the inpatient rehab service at Centegra Hospital-Woodstock, that facility could no longer be categorized as a General Hospital, and it would be required to convert to a Psychiatric Hospital instead. This is not a part of our plan or wishes for this community, and we would need to reevaluate how we provide services here if the Certificate of Need to add rehabilitation services to Centegra Hospital-Woodstock is denied.

We understand that the changes Centegra Health System has proposed have not been well received by some. These difficult business decisions will make us more efficient so we can continue to care for McHenry County patients for generations to come. Just as we have been for more than 100 years, the nearly 4,000 Associates of Centegra Health System remain committed to caring for this community.

Thank you,

## Comments for the Centegra Public Hearings 10-02-2017

**2:00-3:00 pm; Application for a Certificate of Exemption (COE) to Discontinue 60 Medical/Surgical Beds, 12 Intensive Care Unit Beds and 5 Operation Room Beds in the Woodstock Hospital (COE #E-036-17)**

Dr. Brian Sager, Mayor of the City of Woodstock. Regarding Centegra's

*Application for a Certificate of Exemption to Discontinue 60 Medical/ Surgical*

*Beds, 12 Intensive Care Unit Beds and 5 Operation Room Beds in the Woodstock*

*Hospital*, the City of Woodstock rises in opposition of the application.

Please do not interpret my comments today, in opposition to the specific

application, as comments opposing Centegra Health System. To the contrary, the

City of Woodstock and its residents have embraced Centegra since it took over

the community's Woodstock Memorial Hospital, established through the vision

and hard work of a small group of doctors and a supportive community in 1914 to

establish a community hospital in Woodstock, the county seat, that would serve

not only City residents, but the larger county. Woodstock and Centegra have

enjoyed a strongly collaborative and mutually supportive partnership for many

years. It seemed natural, therefore, on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 when Centegra Health

System appeared before the Woodstock City Council requesting support of their

application for a *Certificate of Need for the Construction of a Hospital in Huntley*,

for our community to continue its strong tradition of supporting the hospital.

Further, since Woodstock Hospital had always been supported as a county, not

## Comments for the Centegra Public Hearings 10-02-2017

just community hospital, residents of Woodstock acknowledged the call to support strong regional health care provisions through an expanded Centegra Health System. In the language of the resolution considered on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011:

**WHEREAS, the State of Illinois has identified the planning area in which McHenry County is located as one of only three planning areas in the entire State of Illinois that has a shortage of acute care hospital beds to serve the community; and**

**WHEREAS, in addition to meeting the state's bed need for Health Planning Area A-10, Centegra's proposed hospital would serve Planning Area A-11, less than two miles to the south.**

**According to State figures, this planning area (Northern Kane County) is the second of three areas in the State where additional beds are needed. Therefore, two of the three planning areas in Illinois with identified hospital bed shortages would be served by Centegra Hospital - Huntley; and**

**WHEREAS, the construction of a hospital in Huntley, Illinois will allow Centegra Health System to address the identified bed need**



## Comments for the Centegra Public Hearings 10-02-2017

*in the area of McHenry County that needs it the most, based*

*upon rapid population growth in the area.*

With these identified regional needs, the assurance of the Administration of Centegra Health System that services at Centegra Woodstock Hospital would not be reduced, and a strong desire to be good regional partners and citizens, the City of Woodstock in trust and good faith supported Centegra's application for a *Certificate of Need* to build the Huntley Hospital.

Since that time, the City quietly accepted the move of obstetrics from Woodstock Hospital to McHenry Hospital and the relocation of orthopedics from Woodstock Hospital to Huntley Hospital. Although disappointing, we accepted the discontinuation of those services in an effort to be good partners with a health system we had trusted, a system that had served our community well, and in an effort to be good regional partners, acknowledging sacrifices sometimes need to be made for the greater good; in this case, a more vibrant, comprehensive, regional health care system.

In May of this year, it was announced publicly, before any outreach or communication to the City of Woodstock, that acute in-hospital care beds would be discontinued and there would be an associated change of status in the

## Comments for the Centegra Public Hearings 10-02-2017

emergency room services at our Woodstock Hospital. In his comments, Mr. Lawler emphasized the thorough and regular communication Centegra Health System had with staff of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board regarding their plans, but made no comment regarding communication with the community that had supported the hospital and system so enthusiastically over the years. Unfortunately, that communication was non-existent.

The news and the subsequent application for a COE to discontinue 60 medical/surgical beds, 12 intensive care unit beds and 5 operation room beds were understandably met with bitter disappointment. Based upon the long history of support provided for our community hospital by residents and the assurances provided at the time Centegra requested support from the City for the Certificate of Need for a Huntley Hospital, residents have an overwhelming sense of abandonment and betrayal and have responded loudly and consistently with their displeasure. The response was not solely generated from a sense of betrayal, however. It was also motivated by a sense of fear.

Individuals and families look to a community hospital with comprehensive health care services, including acute in-patient hospitalization and an associated level of emergency room services, as a source of insurance. Nobody wants to have to use them, but it is a source of security; that is, when needed, it is there. With the loss of

## Comments for the Centegra Public Hearings 10-02-2017

these services, there is a strong resulting sense of insecurity and when people feel insecure, they become fearful. When people are fearful, they often respond in anger. Unfortunately, that is the tenor of today's Woodstock.

It is also a source of concern for the long-term economic picture for our community. Over the past couple of weeks, numerous employees of the system have received the devastating news their jobs are being eliminated with tragic effects on the financial well-being of individuals and families, as well as the community-at-large. Further, prospective investors wishing to expand their current business and industry presence in our community or looking to locate new businesses, consider the total picture of a community including essential services. A comprehensive hospital that provides quality, responsive, accessible health care for their employees and families is considered as essential to a feeling of security and quality of life as an exceptional education system. Without a hospital providing acute in-patient hospitalization and comprehensive emergency room services in the community, business and industry may be reticent to expand or locate in the City of Woodstock with negative effects on our economic future. It is certainly recognized, as explained by Centegra officials, that we live in a changing hospital environment. With improving medical technology, something



## Comments for the Centegra Public Hearings 10-02-2017

we all want and appreciate, hospital stays are reduced. There is increased emphasis through Federal Government Health Care Programs to reduce in-hospital stays as a way to reduce costs. Medicare provisions and requirements have changed the complexion of compensation. The State of Illinois has an extraordinarily prolonged payment schedule creating difficult cash flow situations for health care providers. And, there is an increasing out-migration of in-patient hospitalization from McHenry County to other regions due to preferred doctor affiliations and hospital specialization.

As a result of these trends and other management decisions, Centegra Health System is facing severe financial challenges, and it is clear, needs to re-configure service provisions across the system for greater efficiencies, viability, sustainability, and it can be argued, enhanced health care quality.

While the changing complexion of the medical industry today and the associated needs for increased efficiencies through focused specialization in hospital facilities might warrant a reduction of the number of beds in Woodstock, the total elimination of those acute in-patient hospital beds and the resulting change in the status of the emergency room services is of major concern to the community's sense of security and is certainly contradictory to the assurances our community

## Comments for the Centegra Public Hearings 10-02-2017

received from Centegra Health System when asked to support the construction of the Huntley Hospital.

For these reasons, the City of Woodstock opposes Centegra's application for a *Certificate of Exemption to Discontinue 60 Medical/ Surgical Beds, 12 Intensive Care Unit Beds and 5 Operation Room Beds in the Woodstock Hospital.*

- My name is Michael Hill; I'm the Chief of the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District. I have many concerns regarding the proposed changes to the Centegra Healthcare system, and it's no surprise that one of them is the financial impact on our Fire District and to our residents. We staff 3 ambulances per day and have built our response plans and standard of coverage around the fact that there is a full service hospital here in our town, within 5 to 7 minutes of travel from most areas in our District. Historically, around 90% of our EMS transports have been to Centegra-Woodstock, with the remaining 10% going to either Huntley or McHenry for specialty services; for example, cardiac catheterization, which is not offered at Centegra-Woodstock. Since the implementation of changes to Woodstock hospital in mid-August, including downgrading of ER capabilities and the removal of in-patient services, we have seen our out of town transport frequency jump to almost 50%. With an average travel time of 15-20 minutes to either McHenry or Huntley, and when you take into account that we run an average of 12 calls per day, the amount of time that our ambulances are unavailable to answer calls for aid to our residents increases dramatically. At the very least, a review of our standards of coverage must take place, and it is likely that in order to continue to provide the level of service that our residents currently enjoy we will need to add additional ambulances, along with the personnel to operate them, to our daily staffing. Because we are almost totally dependent on property tax revenues for funding, the money needed to pay for these resources will come directly from our residents, most likely as a result of an increase in property taxes.



My name is Lieutenant Matt Hedges, of the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District. I am here to discuss how the changes at Centegra Hospital-Woodstock directly effects our daily EMS transport decisions. As of August 10<sup>th</sup>, Woodstock has been downgraded to a "Basic" Emergency Department. Because of this change, patients with any of the following diagnoses will no longer be accepted at Woodstock, and must be transported to either McHenry or Huntley:

- ❑ Multi-system or serious trauma
- ❑ Infections that might require admission to the hospital, including: pneumonia, sepsis, influenza, epiglottitis, or croup
- ❑ Patients presenting with chest pain
- ❑ Patients in respiratory distress that cannot be controlled by a bronchodilator
- ❑ Serious allergic reactions
- ❑ Fractures other than isolated extremities resulting from falls
- ❑ Obstetrics patients
- ❑ Any patient that might require surgical intervention
- ❑ Any patient that might require in-patient admission

One of our greatest transport concerns is the risk of patients developing severe airway compromise while traveling to a distant emergency department. McHenry Western Lake County EMS System does not allow our paramedics to intubate patients in the field. We are concerned about an increase in negative outcomes for these patients, should their condition deteriorate during transport without access to this life saving intervention. Our paramedics will now be required to evaluate if our patient can survive the additional 10 minutes of transport time to McHenry or Huntley.

Good Afternoon, my name is Kimberley Larson and I am honored to be the Executive Director of the only Adult Day Health programs in McHenry County. Our mission is to provide adults, caregivers and families with programs and services promoting an enhanced quality of life. Our vision is a community that understands, values, supports and promotes wellness throughout the lifespan. We have been providing these services in the community for more than 36 years. Hospitalization can be a difficult and stressful experience for anyone. For older people with dementia, a trip to the hospital is bound to be an ordeal, given the myriad problems they have to endure—severe cognitive impairment, memory loss, disorientation, poor judgment, behavior changes, poor communication abilities, reduced physical functioning, and often, the burden of multiple coexisting medical conditions.

They have

Art of losing  
Anxiety about  
Resident of Woodstock  
Medicaid  
experience

RN - working in Community since 1990  
Aware of Community needs

supported Centra when it benefited the Community  
It does not benefit our Community and  
specifically the population that our agency  
serves - the aging population.

Location  
Squirrels

Phil

### Ambulatory Treatment Services.

I don't know under which application the Ambulatory Treatment Services was removed from the Woodstock facility.

This is an area used by a minimum of 300 appointments per month.. Many of these people have a chronic illness and may need treatment several times a month. My 83 yr. old husband needs to go every 2 weeks. Many of these patients often have mobility issues and find it difficult to get around and a lot of them are Senior Citizens.

It is often hard for these people to get to Woodstock, now they have to go extra miles to Huntley or McHenry for their care. Our trip goes from 8mi. Round Trip to 22 miles Round Trip. Winter will be a great concern.

I feel this is too important of a service to be removed from the Woodstock hospital.. Please give this item your attention.

Thank you ,

Marlene Botts

[Marbill514@aol.com](mailto:Marbill514@aol.com)

Ph. 1-815-338-1923



I have been a physician in McHenry County for over 40 years and as such have known the history of the McHenry and Woodstock hospitals and their efforts to come together as a single entity. This was finally accomplished some 25 years ago. Because of the history and the subsequent success of the Centegra system, it deeply pains me to see what is happening to the Woodstock facility.

The reality of Centegra's current debt load makes Centegra's proposal difficult if not impossible to oppose. However, there is one possibility that I believe needs to be explored – if it hasn't already. Mercy Hospital System in Janesville is still trying build a hospital in McHenry County and presently has plans to put up a small facility in Crystal Lake. The simplistic suggestion, therefore, is for Centegra to sit down with Mercy and figure out a way to turn Woodstock Hospital over to Mercy. Obviously Centegra and Mercy have a long history of intense competition in McHenry County. The possibility of them agreeing to something like this would seem to be remote at best, since there would have to be a cost to Mercy for such a deal. This is where the State Health Facilities Planning Board could come into play. The Planning Board could use their influence to force the two systems to come to an agreement that would seemingly satisfy all parties – and perhaps keep Woodstock's acute care facility open. This obviously would not be a perfect solution as Mercy may prefer a Crystal Lake site over Woodstock, but it would reduce Centegra's debt load – and would demonstrate that the Health Facilities Planning Board can indeed work for economical solutions to health issues in McHenry County. One other outcome of such an arrangement could also be helping Centegra recover from an obvious public relations fiasco that is resulting from the proposed closure of Woodstock acute care beds.

James W. Mowery, M.D.  
10/2/2017

September 18, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am 68 years old and have lived in Woodstock for 20 years and in that time I have had to be in the hospital there several times.

I now have a new heart valve and a pacemaker with a defibrillator and these were both done by Centegra physicians at the NIMC facility.

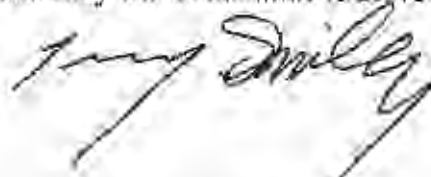
Unfortunately my condition does or can cause any type of cold or infection to settle in my lungs. For the last several years I have ended up in the hospital in Woodstock where they have taken very good care of me. Unfortunately now I will not be able to go to the closest hospital nor will my primary care doctor be able to treat me in either NIMC or the Huntley facility. While I am sure the doctors there are very good, they do not know me nor do they know my condition and history and this makes me extremely anxious about going to either hospital. Also it has been published that if you do have to go to the emergency room in Woodstock and they want to admit you to either of the other hospitals they will transport you by ambulance at your cost. If that is true then you will have left some people out in the cold and others will have the cost picked up by the tax payers- Medicare.

What about ambulance service? Right now if we have only 2-3 ambulances in Woodstock, they can still make a run to the existing hospital several times compared to what it will take to make a run to either of the other two. So on top of the extra costs for transport, paid by the patient, there will be an extra cost to acquire more ambulances and personnel to staff them at taxpayers' expense.

I do not think the citizens of Woodstock and the immediate surrounding area should be punished for the board of director's poor business decisions and I believe that is exactly what is happening. It was decided to build a new hospital in Huntley thinking that with all of the elderly people now residing in Huntley that you would make money on this new hospital. You have not, in fact you have lost millions on it and so to make up for that you have decided to drop most of the care facilities in Woodstock. The people that now live in the Huntley area such as the residents of Sun City are mostly from the city of Chicago and immediate surrounding areas and want to keep going to the doctors and hospitals that they have known all of their lives...just as I do.

I also believe that when Centegra first proposed the new facility everyone was told, including the people of Woodstock and the state board that it would not change anything for the Woodstock facility. My question is: Did Centegra really believe that at that time or did they just say it to get approval?

All in all, I think this was a poor decision on the part of the board of directors and now we have to suffer. This is not right and should not stand, and the people of Woodstock have every right to be upset and fight this all they can. I do not believe at this time that Centegra cares about the people they stated that they would continue to serve.



**Public Hearing Testimony In support of Projects 17-036, 17-037, E-036-17, E-037-17**

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Centegra is acutely aware that the decision to change is often difficult. Change is needed when the ability to fulfill our core obligation to the community is at risk, and it then becomes our responsibility to make those difficult decisions. The projects now before the Health Facilities and Services Review Board and the subject of the public hearings today are the result of difficult decisions necessitated by changing economics in the health care industry. They are also the result of the type of careful planning and evaluation that has allowed Centegra to continue to serve McHenry County for over a century.

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closure" of services at Centegra Hospital-Woodstock. That is simply not true. We met with the State to discuss our plans, confirmed the legal processes required, and complied with those requirements.

Community members have also been misinformed about the legal processes that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board is required to follow regarding Centegra's application to discontinue services. The Review Board, as any State agency, has only the power that the Illinois legislature grants it. The Illinois legislature has determined that the Review Board has no power to deny a health care facility's exemption application to discontinue services once the Board's staff has deemed the application complete.

The law states that "upon a finding that an application to discontinue a category of service for a health care facility is complete and provides the requested information as specified by the State Board, an exemption shall be issued." 20 ILCS 3960/8.5(a-5). The State Board has consistently applied and followed this law as written. In November 2015, the Board's General Counsel advised the Board that this law means that if an exemption application has been deemed complete by the Board's staff, the Review Board shall issue the exemption. In October 2016, the Board's General Counsel advised the Review Board that "the Health Facilities Planning Act requires that ... once [an] exemption application has been deemed complete by staff ... this Board is under an obligation by statute to approve that exemption."

The Health Facilities and Services Review Board is under an obligation by statute to approve Centegra's exemption applications to discontinue services. The applications were deemed complete by the Board's staff on August 18, and the Planning Act requires the exemptions to be issued.

The Review Board's rules and the Illinois Open Meetings Act do provide for public comment on exemption applications, but public hearings and public comment do not affect the law that when an exemption application to discontinue services has been deemed complete by the Board's staff, the State Board is required by law to approve the application.

We emphasize again the difficulty of the decision-making process regarding the discontinuation of services. Centegra Health System's leaders and governing board members live and work in the communities we serve. Many have dedicated decades of their careers to bringing advanced health care services to McHenry County. We carefully considered every option as we created the Master Facilities Plan, and we understand Woodstock's disappointment in our final decision to change services at Centegra Hospital-Woodstock.

In the end, we had to choose what is best for the entire community, which includes more than 30 other cities and villages that also need high-quality, local health care.

These communities also still need access to Comprehensive Physical Rehabilitation, which is why Centegra filed a Certificate of Need to provide these services at Centegra Hospital-Woodstock when it becomes a place for specialty inpatient care. With all of the misinformation and confusion surrounding these projects, we sincerely hope that community members do not inadvertently oppose bringing Comprehensive Physical Rehabilitation Services to Centegra Hospital-Woodstock, which will benefit the

residents of Woodstock with needed services –and the accompanying employment opportunities. Few hospitals offer highly skilled rehabilitation care for strokes, severe orthopedic injuries and amputations, and that is what Centegra's Certificate of Need application proposes to bring to Woodstock.

If Centegra is not allowed to add the Inpatient rehab service at Centegra Hospital-Woodstock, that facility could no longer be categorized as a General Hospital, and it would be required to convert to a Psychiatric Hospital instead. This is not a part of our plan or wishes for this community, and we would need to reevaluate how we provide services here if the Certificate of Need to add rehabilitation services to Centegra Hospital-Woodstock is denied.

We understand that the changes Centegra Health System has proposed have not been well received by some. These difficult business decisions will make us more efficient so we can continue to care for McHenry County patients for generations to come. Just as we have been for more than 100 years, the nearly 4,000 Associates of Centegra Health System remain committed to caring for this community.

Thank you.



## Comments for the Centegra Public Hearings 10-02-2017

### 3:00-4:00 pm; Application for a Certificate of Exemption (COE) to Discontinue 22 Rehabilitation Beds in the McHenry Hospital (COE #E-037-17)

Again, my name is Dr. Brian Sager, Mayor of the City of Woodstock. With regards to the *Application for a Certificate of Exemption to Discontinue 22 Rehabilitation Beds in the McHenry Hospital*, the City of Woodstock is neither a proponent nor opponent and adopts a neutral position on the application.

It is understood the application to discontinue ~~of~~ rehabilitation beds in the McHenry Hospital is directly associated with the application for a *Certificate of Need (CON)* to establish 22 rehabilitation beds in the Woodstock Hospital, an application which the City of Woodstock supports. However, and as previously stated, there is a growing need in our community, and the larger region including the McHenry Community, for hospital beds dedicated to physical, <sup>rehabilitation as well as</sup> behavioral and drug and alcohol rehabilitation. And, while it is believed the possibility of concentrating these services in the Woodstock Hospital would allow increased professional health care provision efficiencies, it must again be stated rehabilitation services are frequently associated with family attention and support. As a result, those who live in the City of McHenry or in close proximity to the McHenry Hospital would lose ready access to a local rehabilitation facility.

## Comments for the Centegra Public Hearings 10-02-2017

The question, therefore, is a matter for the McHenry community to address and should not be a point of support or objection on behalf of the City of Woodstock. For these reasons, the City of Woodstock adopts a neutral position on Centegra's application for a *Certificate of Exemption to Discontinue 22 Rehabilitation Beds in the McHenry Hospital*.

IHFSRB Public Hearing Written Comment  
Woodstock Opera House  
October 2, 2017

To Review Board Members:

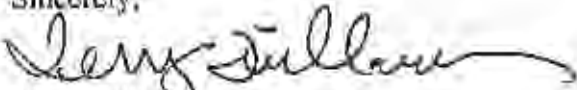
I am writing to oppose COE #036-17 and Centegra's discontinuation of essential hospitalization services from the Woodstock community. A full-service hospital in Woodstock has been a foundation for community growth and security here for over 100 years. Residents here have invested decades of financial and volunteer support in Woodstock's Centegra facility, and operations here were profitable, giving the community no indication or rationale for the abrupt removal of services other than corporate mismanagement. Centegra has denied any negative results of these actions for Woodstock residents; however, this lack of concern in no way reflects the true and continued needs that have been loudly expressed by members of our community.

Healthcare accessibility is one of a community's fundamental resources and is a deciding factor in both business attraction and residential growth. Readily available medical care has direct impact on the physical, emotional, and economic well-being of every community member. Residents from Woodstock and surrounding areas must now face confusing and difficult decisions regarding where to seek healthcare services, with delays to receive treatment sure to have negative consequences on serious health conditions. These challenges are multiplied for the elderly, disabled, and impoverished, who often need reliable healthcare more frequently, as well as for culturally-diverse community members, for whom language issues can cause further confusion and delay in treatment.

For elective procedures, the removal of local services entails long travel times, often in heavy traffic or bad weather, causing additional stress and inconvenience for both patients and families. In emergency situations, there is added anxiety to wait for dispatched services delayed due to rescue vehicle availability, and hundreds of dollars in increased costs to patients for additional transport time to treatment facility.

Woodstock is a place where people move, raise families, and stay the rest of their lives. Our residents depend on comprehensive healthcare services available locally to ensure continued security for themselves and their loved ones. I encourage the swift approval of future applications by qualified healthcare providers to replace all hospitalization services for Woodstock Illinois.

Sincerely,



Terry Willcockson  
731 Margaret Drive  
Woodstock, IL 60098



October 2, 2017

I would like to express my opinion on the closing of the Woodstock Centegra Hospital. Woodstock has had a hospital since the 1940's and I feel that our community has grown so much since then that it makes sense to keep a hospital that will serve the citizens of Woodstock and the rural community. We need at least a well equipped emergency room with staff that can treat any emergency and also several inpatient beds.

It has also been very convenient to have a place where we can get our blood tests and X-rays and other tests such as bone density tests etc.

Many people in our community are getting older and need transportation from others to get to the hospital for these tests. A neighbor is usually willing to go across town to do this but driving to another town takes longer and is not really convenient for them. Also I have a brother who is confined to a wheel chair and traveling farther makes it very inconvenient for him.

I hope that you will be open to letting any other medical facility who is interested in opening a hospital in Woodstock do so.

Thank You,

Christine Gehrke  
Woodstock, IL

Good afternoon, I'm Jim Prindiville, a member of the Woodstock City Council.

In 2002 as a city council member I spoke at the ribbon cutting for Centegra's ambulatory care unit. At that time I said the quality of a community can be measured by the quality of the health care it provides. That remains true today.

Our community needs a full service emergency room and hospital where people can go for the care they need. This includes surgery, ICU, and overnight stays. People of all ages have reached out to me about the loss of these services and have said, "We need to do something. Do not allow this to happen."

The absence of these hospital services reduces the quality of life in our community. The elimination of local in-patient beds and the resulting change in the status of emergency services diminishes our community's sense of security.

If you choose to allow the shut down of in-patient bed services, it is imperative that you allow another health care provider to build and provide those essential health care services in Woodstock. For 100 years, Woodstock has supported a full service hospital. Our community needs these services.

Paul  
Leinwand

years ago last August, I did my first-ever 5K, jogging and walking briskly to the finish line. I felt proud and accomplished. A few days later, while rushing for an afternoon commuter train, I felt something different — chest pains. I did not have a heart attack. It actually took tests and doctor visits a few weeks before an angiogram discovered a 95-98% blockage in the left anterior descending artery, commonly known as the “widowmaker.” But the Centegra cardiologist who did the angiogram inserted a stent told me I was this close to a severe or massive heart attack.

Imagine if this happened now in Woodstock. I suffer chest pains and this time it is a heart attack. And imagine that one or two or three medical emergencies are happening at the same time. Prior to August 1<sup>st</sup>, our ambulances could take their patients to Centegra-Woodstock and immediately be available to assist to my aid. Now, the likelihood that those ambulances are out of town has jumped ~~disastrously~~ <sup>significantly</sup>. I have to wait for the help of EMTs, and they must either take me to a "basic" emergency room so I can be stabilized and THEN transferred to another hospital... or they need to take me to an out-of-town hospital immediately. Neither of these situations is ideal for my well-being and survival.

Our community has supported in-patient hospital services for over 100 years. The full impact of the gradual elimination of in-patient beds and the resulting loss of comprehensive emergency room services is still being calculated. But the impact on individuals' health condition because of extended transportation time is huge. If Centegra doesn't want to provide those services, the Facilities and Services Review Board needs to be open to some other way that we can retain – or obtain –

transportation time is huge. If Centegra doesn't want to provide those services, the Facilities and Services Review Board needs to be open to some other way that we can retain - or obtain - medical/surgical and ICU beds in Woodstock - even if it requires the approval of an application from <sup>those</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>if I can lose it</sup> ~~other provider.~~ <sup>that's not true.</sup>

The answer she says is evolving to meet Woodstock's needs.



+++++ When it comes to rebuilding, moving from the hospital to Woodstock, I remain hopeful. When a community's hit by a natural disaster - a tornado, for example - devastation can be widespread or just strike a limited area. Regardless, the community and government agencies step forward.

Paul  
Lockwood

Well, our community's come together to help restore the services we lost August 12th when our hospital was struck by a manmade, financially-driven "tornado", eliminating all in-patient beds and major surgery services from Woodstock, a city with a full-service hospital for over a century.

The impact of that "tornado" in Woodstock is substantial, including:

- The ability to attract new businesses to our community, as well as new residents, once they find out we don't have a real hospital, will be substantially impacted.
- The personal care physician you put your trust in won't have hospital privileges elsewhere.
- If you're severely injured or seriously ill, you'll lose precious time being taken to a full-service hospital.

Because the exemption application has been deemed complete, Centegra <sup>doesn't want to</sup> rebuild. This board is the government agency that can help restore what we lost. If Centegra <sup>can't</sup> rebuild here, please seriously consider approving an application from another healthcare organization that wants to replace this critical piece of Woodstock's quality of life.

Now we want to see a strong effort to get the community back on its feet. We need to see a strong effort to get the community back on its feet. We need to see a strong effort to get the community back on its feet.

to reduce our service must as a priority as it is the worst case scenario.

10. The Services Health Facilities  
and Services Rail Board

Centegra has swindled and  
baited and swindled the  
people of Woodstock in my  
opinion.

We were told that the new  
hospital in that they would  
not affect our Woodstock  
hospital. This was  
obviously not true.

We were not told about  
their new "hospital facility  
fee" added to doctors  
office visits until it  
showed up on our bills.

They added this fee after  
they had already negotiated  
insurance contracts with  
many of the towns biggest  
employers so that insurance  
would not cover the fee and

patients had to pay all  
of it out of pocket

This "not for profit"  
hospital is in their  
current situation because  
of their own greed and  
how Woodstock is  
paying the price!

Harry Stoddard  
Woodstock, IL

October 2, 2017

RE: Project E-036-17 Centegra Hospital - Woodstock

Changes in comprehensive emergency room services have already occurred at the Centegra Woodstock Hospital in advance of the petition for discontinuation of intensive care beds. Several previously announced personnel reductions have recently been followed by an additional nine percent cutback. Emergency room support personnel, supplies, nurses, lab technicians, lab equipment, blood bank supplies, blood compatibility testing capability have all been reduced. The stabilization capacity/capability of what is called an emergency room at Woodstock has been reduced dramatically from its previous intensive care level. These reductions are not part of the bed reduction petition, and I don't understand why the ER service reductions are allowed. I am concerned that the reductions have placed services at such a level that my life may be put in jeopardy should I need emergency care. It frustrates me that the petition only refers to ICU bed reduction with no reference to comprehensive emergency room services already reduced with further reductions announced. I fear that the Woodstock ER no longer meets reasonable standards to be deemed an emergency room provider.

Submitted



Jan Vanderspool  
8708 Bull Run Trail  
Woodstock, IL 60098