

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:
233-E STRATTON BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
217/558-1002



DISTRICT OFFICE:
540 W. GALENA BLVD.
AURORA, ILLINOIS 60506
630/270-1848

Linda Chapa LaVia
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 83RD DISTRICT

RECEIVED

NOV 20 2017

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

November 15, 2017

Chairman Kathryn J. Olson
Illinois Health Facilities and Service Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Dear Chairman Olson:

Valley Ambulatory Surgery Center recently filed a Certificate of Need application, Project 17-057. Within that CON application and Valley Ambulatory Surgery Center's ("Valley") annual response for licensure renewal, I notice that Valley identifies no charity care patients for 2016, even though they report charity care in the amount of \$11,729, and for 2012 – 2016 Valley reports a total of 46 charity care patients for an amount of \$122,460. Such information raises the question of whether Valley is providing the kind of charity care as required by the statute and regulations, which is care provided by a health care facility for which the provider does not expect to receive payment from the patient or a third-party payer. In 2016, Valley had no charity care patients but \$11,729 attributed to charity care, which appears more likely that Valley's charity care is being reported as accounts they write-off.

Charity care is an important issue. The constituents in my district use both Rush Copley Hospital, Aurora and Presence (Provena) Mercy Hospital, Aurora. Both hospitals are identified as Hospital Transfer Relationships for Valley. In 2016, these hospitals combined to attend to 9,684 charity care patients with charity care in the amount of \$10,568,682 (Rush Copley - 964/\$4,548,664 and Presence Mercy - 8,720/\$6,020,018). See Illinois Health Facility and Service Review Board Hospital Profile – CY 2016. Furthermore, Rush Copley Hospital and Presence Mercy Hospital for the period 2012 – 2016 provided charity care to 34,266 patients in the amount of \$63,053,284.

Charity care is not solely a hospital responsibility. Valley's charity care numbers point out that the local hospitals are the ones essentially providing charity care to the community. According to the CON application, Project 17-057, Valley is not enrolled in Medicaid.

I respectfully request that the Health Facilities and Service Review Board look deeper into Valley's CON application, Project 17-057, and their annual license renewals concerning charity care and how it was calculated. In the delivery of healthcare services to the community, hospitals should not alone bear the burden of providing charity care to the community.

I look forward to your response and please keep me informed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Linda Chapa LaVia".

Representative Linda Chapa LaVia, 83rd District