

January 31, 2019

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HEALTH, FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Ms. Courtney R. Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois

Dear Ms. Avery:

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Dr. Nanjappa Somanna, I practice Pulmonary, Critical care and Sleep medicine. I have been employed by the Blessing Physician Services, since 2006, after I completed my fellowship training. Prior to that I was an Internist in a small group of about 15 physicians.

I would like to comment on some of the points brought about by Quincy Medical Group (QMG) with regards to their application for a surgery center.

1. They have mentioned the need for a new outpatient surgery center to improve physician recruitment. In my opinion, both being recruited to Quincy and our continued recruitment of physicians, these are the most important questions, that physicians ask during recruitment interviews. Patient volume, financial health of the system, availability of appropriate equipment and quality of administration. We at Blessing Physician Services (BPS) have been very successful with our recruitment. We have grown from approximately 60 providers to approximately 200 providers in 3 ½ years, partly because we are financially stable, have good patient volumes, have all necessary equipment and have a good stable, forward thinking administration.
2. Financial stability is, as you know very important for all health systems. All profits from the hospital are ploughed back into the community, whereas all profits from QMG are distributed to its shareholders, who are their doctors. Due to its good financial health, the system has invested in the hospital and community. For example from a pulmonary perspective we have, Endo-bronchial Ultrasound and Navigational Bronchoscopy. Very few community hospitals of our size have this level of sophistication. This results in fewer patients needing to go out of town for diagnostic testing. Also helps recruiting new physicians, as all new pulmonologists are being trained in such newer techniques. A short list of other services include electrophysiology lab (EP Lab), robotic surgery, hybrid operating rooms, telemedicine etc. The hospital also is building new single patient rooms for improved patient comfort and care.
3. QMG may ultimately send the paying patients to its new surgical center and send all the other patients to Blessing health system. Our system will not deny care for the people who live in our

community because of lack of financial ability. The loss of revenue will ultimately result in the inability for our small health system to afford any innovative technology and services. This could result, in the long term, to degraded health options for our community.

4. The other reason for the new surgery center being mentioned is monopoly. In fact I was initially bewildered to hear this being said. I am sure there are not too many health systems in the country that have the only surgery center in the town, located in the premises and being run by the competition. As you are aware the only surgical center in the town is owned by Blessing Health System, currently located and being run by QMG, which in my mind is not monopoly. In fact duplication of services in a small town would be a bigger problem than this so called monopoly.
5. I do agree cost containment, is a major issue. There again I do not see if QMG did its due diligence to work with the health system to bring down costs. I have spoken to administration about this and they have shown me concrete steps being made to lower costs, prior to all of this happening.

Finally based on all that I have discussed and heard so far I would respectfully ask for the permission **not** be granted to QMG to build a second outpatient surgical center. Perhaps the two health systems can work out their differences, just as they have done for so many years. The health of our community depends on the health of our health system.

Sincerely,



Nanjappa Somanna, M.D.
Pulmonary/Critical Care/Sleep Medicine
Blessing Physician Services

February 2, 2019

Ronald H. Upper
4616 Pebble Beach Drive
Quincy, IL 62305-1112

Ms. Courtney R. Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

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**Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group
(QMG) Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois**

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am a 79 year old resident living just outside the city of Quincy, Illinois and I have had relatively recent personal experiences and treatments in each facilities listed below:

- QMG and Blessing Hospital's Current Outpatient Surgery Center, owned by Blessing and managed by QMG staff.
- Cancer Center at Blessing Hospital, owned by Blessing Hospital and operated by both Blessing and QMG staff.
- SIU Family Residency Facility financially supported by Blessing Hospital.
- QMG's Physicians Offices.
- Blessing Physician Services Offices.

I can, therefore, personally attest that these operations are and have been operating satisfactorily for many years. I have never witnessed any delays in requested services nor am I aware of any of my friends who have either. I am also not aware that there has ever been a need to staff these facilities on weekends or in the evenings to take care of the Quincy area's needs. We do not need the duplication of services requested by QMG here at this time.

I do know that the Cancer Center, located in Blessing, is in of need additional space for their expanding staff and services. I am aware, too, that several proposals for expanded space there have been suggested by Blessing to QMG, but have been thus far ignored. I contend that these space needs can be worked out without building an expensive duplication of facilities.

I also understand that QMG proposes to do heart catheterizations in their proposed Surgery Center, which is a considerable distance from the Hospital and its

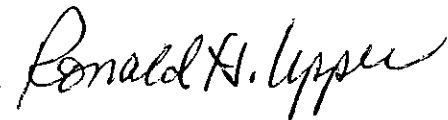
emergency services. I feel it would be much wiser to leave those, sometimes risky procedures, where they are now rather than to move them much further away.

The proposed QMG Outpatient Surgery Center will pull procedures presently done now very satisfactorily at Blessing away and in doing so would naturally cause financial harm to Blessing. It is well known that Blessing and its not-for profit mission provides vital support to the community's behavioral and trauma care, as well as support to other educational and healthcare professionals at the College of Nursing and SIU Family Residency. Financial harm to Blessing will also adversely affect their support to these programs.

And finally, I am also very concerned that the proposal presented by QMG to your Board is not a viable one and could eventually lead to the loss of valuable physicians and nurses in our area should the venture not prove successful.

Thank you for your consideration of my feelings on this matter.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald H. Upper". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and phone number.

Ronald H. Upper
(217) 224-1824

January 29, 2019

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Ms. Courtney R. Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Diane Nutter. I am a Family Nurse Practitioner with Blessing Physician Services. I am writing in opposition to Quincy Medical Groups change of location for their surgery center in Quincy, Illinois.

I am very familiar with Quincy Medical Group as I worked for them as a Nurse Practitioner for 11 years. During that time, they chose to build their first surgical center at its current location. That was a huge ordeal! Sadly, it only took 6 years for them to turn the ownership of that over to Blessing due to financial problems. From 2006 to present, Blessing has owned the facility, management through Quincy Medical Group. My understanding is that Quincy Medical Group is unhappy with the current management situation, yet they never offered to repurchase their original building. Instead, they want to invest millions of dollars at a different location, to offer the same services, with the same providers and managers. I have heard words used that include "it will revitalize the mall". Having a surgical center there WILL NOT revitalize the mall! The people who would utilize the surgical center, most likely won't be shopping! And, frankly, as a mall patron, I would find that service to be offensive in a mall setting. A quick-care clinic, I can understand that. A surgical center where there is potential for crisis, absolutely not. The mixture is not there.

I have been a health care provider for 25 years. I grew up utilizing medical services in Quincy, Illinois. I remember years of one group complaining about, or trying to outdo, the other group. From a provider's view, I feel the duplication of services is simply a means of trying to take away revenue from Blessing. This endeavor will decrease jobs at Blessing and possibly hinder Behavioral Health services that we offer. From reports, the Quincy Medical Group surgical center is utilized less than 50% capacity, now. Building new and bigger at the mall will not change that. As a patient, I would not utilize services at a mall, nor would I allow my family. It lacks professional appeal and I would worry about timeliness of response of emergency services should something catastrophic happen during a cardiac cath, colonoscopy, etc. I've helped with all of these procedures. Bad things do happen during "simple" procedures. This decreases core safety net services and simply is nonsensical. My solution: IF Quincy Medical Group wants control of a surgical center, they should repurchase their original building; remodel and make better. They would be OWNER AND OPERATOR of this facility. Unfortunately, their cash reserve is not deep, thus debt of this project is daunting. As a provider, I would not consider this a wise business decision.

In closing, I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042. Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,
Diane Nutter, ARNP

