

Colandra Knight
Dialysis Care Center Chicago Heights (Proj. No. 19-015)
June 30, 2020

- I'm Colandra Knight, a Group Facility Administrator overseeing DaVita's Chicago Heights dialysis clinic.
- DaVita opposes DCC's proposal today to establish a dialysis clinic in Chicago Heights. The proposed Dialysis Care Center Chicago Heights will be located less than one mile from DaVita's Chicago Heights clinic, which currently has capacity to admit additional dialysis patients.
- As your staff report concludes, there is no need for a third dialysis facility in Chicago Heights, and the addition of DCC Chicago Heights will result in unnecessary duplication of services.
- This project received an intent-to-deny at the September 17, 2019 meeting. Since the project was initially considered, this Board released new in-center hemodialysis need numbers. Due to more current data, the Board calculates an excess of 128 stations in HSA 7, which is a 125% increase and far and away the highest station excess in the State.
- Further, there is plenty of capacity among existing dialysis clinics within the immediate area of DCC Chicago Heights. As the Board Staff report notes, average utilization of existing facilities within the 5-mile geographic service area is 63% with 8 of 9 dialysis clinics operating below the Board's target utilization of 80%.

- DaVita's Hazel Crest facility, is one of the facilities, operating below target utilization, and it can accommodate additional patients. We have an open medical staff, and Dialysis Care Centers' physicians admit patients to our clinics.
- DaVita provides excellent care, consistently receives high ranks in the CMS ESRD Quality Incentive Program, and our CMS Star Ratings for the past five years are outstanding despite specializing in managing high-risk, co-morbid patients.
- Given the significant capacity and high quality among existing providers, there is no need for another Chicago Heights dialysis clinic at this time. Please deny Dialysis Care Center's Chicago Heights CON application.