



Washington University in St. Louis

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Department of Neurology

David M. Holtzman, MD

Andrew B. and Gretchen P. Jones Professor
Chairman of Neurology
Neurologist-in-Chief, Barnes-Jewish Hospital

5-20-19

Courtney Avery
Board Administrator
Health Facilities and Services Review Board
Illinois Department of Public Health
525 West Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

RECEIVED

MAY 24 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Re: The Rehabilitation Institute of Southern Illinois, LLC's Proposal to Establish a 40-bed Comprehensive Physical Rehabilitation Hospital in St. Clair County, HSA11

Dear Ms. Avery,

I am writing to express my support for The Rehabilitation Institute of Southern Illinois, LLC's Certificate of Need application to build a comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation hospital in St. Claire County, HSA11. In my role as the Chair of the Department of Neurology and overseeing Jin-Moo Lee, MD, PhD, head of our Division of Cerebrovascular Disease and Stroke and the Stroke Medical Director, I am responsible for the Department of Neurology's Stroke Program, supervising and continuously improving the provision of care, developing protocols, and meeting all of the clinically regulated standards.

In my capacity, I oversee many neurologists who see thousands of stroke patients annually in addition to patients with a variety of other neurological conditions and other medical problems. Many of these patients are in need of ongoing inpatient medical and nursing care, physical, occupational, and speech therapy after discharge from our hospital to help them recover from their acute illness and to improve the opportunity for them to return to as much independent functioning as they possibly can. We are in dire need of inpatient acute rehabilitation facilities east of the Mississippi river in Southern Illinois.

There are currently very few inpatient rehab beds in the greater metro east area, specifically St. Claire County and several of the surrounding counties. Our patients and families have to travel long distances from their homes to The Rehabilitation Institute of St. Louis which is where we refer most of our patients, however many of those patients prefer to be closer to their community for rehabilitation. Unfortunately they are not getting the intensity of services in the skilled nursing facilities compared to what they would receive in The Rehabilitation Institute of Southern Illinois.

The need for the proposed hospital is illustrated by the number of southern Illinois patients we care for each year. For example, in CY17 we cared for 658 neurology patients from the 4-county HSA11 area. Of course, when you consider the greater Southern Illinois area (counties such as Randolph, Perry, Washington, Jefferson, etc.) the number of patients who cross the river from East Metro in Missouri is far greater. Thus, of the patients we see annually from the 4-county HSA11 area plus the greater Southern Illinois area, I would expect that we will annually refer as many as 300 patients for intensive inpatient therapy, with the vast majority of

those patients being referred to the new hospital in Shiloh Illinois since that will be closer to their homes and offer the same high level of care currently offered at The Rehabilitation Institute of St. Louis here in Missouri.

For all of the reasons cited above, I strongly urge you to provide a Certificate of Need to The Rehabilitation Institute of Southern Illinois, LLC to allow them to start construction of this desperately needed hospital. I am certain it will have an immediate positive impact on our hospital's length of stay, on caregiver education, and patient integration back into the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Holtzman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being more prominent.

David M. Holtzman, MD
Professor and Chairman
Department of Neurology