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**RECEIVED**

June 20, 2019

JUN 21 2019

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

**VIA FEDEX**

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

**Re: The Rehabilitation Institute of Southern Illinois, Project #19-021- Letter of Support - Mark Thelke, M.D., Chief of Hospital Medicine, Washington University School of Medicine**

Dear Ms. Avery:

Enclosed please find a letter of support for Project #19-021, The Rehabilitation Institute of Southern Illinois from Mark Thelke, M.D., Chief of Hospital Medicine, Washington University School of Medicine

If you have any questions or need any additional information regarding the project, please feel free to contact me via phone at 312-212-4967 or via email at [JMorado@beneschlaw.com](mailto:JMorado@beneschlaw.com). You can also contact my colleague Mark J. Silberman, via phone at 312-212-4952 or via email at [MSilberman@beneschlaw.com](mailto:MSilberman@beneschlaw.com) with any questions.

Very truly yours,

BENESCH, FRIEDLANDER,  
COPLAN & ARONOFF LLP

Juan Morado Jr.

Enclosures  
cc: George Roate, Project Reviewer



# Washington University in St. Louis

## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

John T. Milliken Department of Medicine  
Division of Hospital Medicine

June 10, 2019

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

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JUN 21 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 a Board-certified Internal Medicine physician acting as Chief of Hospital Medicine at Washington University and Barnes-Jewish Hospital. The purpose of this letter is to ask that you approve the above-referenced project for the much-needed 40-bed inpatient rehab hospital to be located in and primarily serve residents from the four counties comprising Illinois HSA11.

Given my role and responsibilities at Barnes-Jewish Hospital, I have firsthand knowledge of the need for the proposed project that will benefit patients currently having to travel outside their community and home state to receive comprehensive, specialized inpatient rehabilitative care. I see the need on a daily basis for patients who have suffered a stroke, hip fracture, brain injury, and many other conditions to receive post-acute intensive inpatient rehabilitation to improve their functional and cognitive outcomes. The ability of these patients to receive their needed inpatient rehab close to home will ensure patients can achieve optimal outcomes for the highest quality of life possible.

In my role as the physician leader for the Hospitalist my work goes beyond supervising our program. Our service is growing rapidly and implementing protocols, processes, quality metrics and cutting edge technology that ensures the best possible physicians are providing the best possible treatment options and outcomes for our patients. Inpatient rehabilitation is critically important for the patient population that we see on a daily basis. The availability of advanced technology, advanced education and training for the physicians, nurses, and therapists and evidence-based rehabilitation medicine is paramount in the patient's road to optimal recovery and function.

Many of our patients live in Southern Illinois and travel great distances to receive their care at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri. The patient's family and friends are challenged with visiting due to the difficulty of the drive to our hospital. It would be



# Washington University in St. Louis

## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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tremendously helpful for the patient and their family to receive their post-acute rehabilitation in the community where they live, so family and/or caregiver participation in therapy can be achieved easily. As I'm sure you know, participation by the family member or caregiver in an inpatient's care enhances quality of care for the patient both during his/her hospital stay and when the patient returns home where the family member or caregiver assists the patient in his/her ongoing recovery. In short, involvement of family members/caregivers in the patient's care ultimately enhances patient outcomes, quality of care, and quality of life for the rehab patient.

Currently, when we consider patients at only three of our St. Louis hospital locations (Barnes Jewish Hospital, BJC West, and Christian Hospital), we are caring for over 1,000 patients annually who live in the four counties comprising HSA11 (St. Clair, Clinton, Madison and Monroe). Of course, that number rises when you consider our many patients from other parts of Southern Illinois.

A significant number of our patients would benefit from inpatient rehab services. However, many of our patients choose to receive post-acute care services closer to home, therefore often end up being discharged to a skilled nursing facility or home health care rather than to inpatient rehab when those services are most appropriate. Thus, if the proposed 40-bed rehab hospital in Shiloh is approved, I expect that approximately 150 or more patients annually could benefit from, and thus would receive inpatient rehabilitation in the proposed new hospital because it is closer to where they live.

The benefit of inpatient rehabilitation that is close, convenient for patients, families, and delivered by talented, trained clinicians that provide optimal outcomes and quality of life is so very important for the communities we serve. I urge you to support and grant approval for this CON application for The Rehabilitation Institute of Southern Illinois, LLC.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Thaelke MD SFHM  
Chief of Hospital Medicine  
Professor of Medicine  
Washington University School of Medicine