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March 20, 2020

Health Facilities Board Courtney Avery Board Administrator Health Facilities & Services Review Board Illinois Department of Public Health 525 W Jefferson St – Second Floor Springfield IL 62761 RECEIVED

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HEALTH FACILITIES & SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Subject: BJC/Memorial 40 Bed Rehab Facility in Shiloh IL

Dear Ms Avery,

Based on my personal experience dealing with trying to get a loved one into a "local" rehab facility, I am respectfully requesting you reconsider approving the 40 bed rehab facility BJC/Memorial proposed months ago. I know this has also been a concern of friends who are also taking care of aging parents.

Before he passed in 2013 my family was in the position of trying to get assistance to get my Father in a rehab facility close to home so Mom as well as supporting family could easily get there to support him through his recovery.

When my Mother had to be transported to SLU Hospital in St Louis and was in the hospital for an extended period, the doctor(s) recommended therapy since she had been confined to bed for so long. Unfortunately the staff could NOT find a site near the O'Fallon/Belleville IL area to place her.

SLU staff searched advising NOTHING was available. Finally they recommended a rehab facility near Barnes Hospital in St Louis MO. This was in December and weather was unpredictable. Due to high traffic volume and parking concerns in the area, my brother and I traveled together as he didn't want me walking alone to the parking garage that was not on the property. It was a VERY emotional time for Mom and family as we weren't able to stagger visits and some days due to weather she had no visitors.

With Memorial Hospital East in the Shiloh/O'Fallon IL area and several Assisted/Memory care centers in the area, I think it would be a great asset to have a Rehab facility in the proposed area. This would also take a lot of stress off the patient as well as the families.

With hospitals in this area, it would be a benefit not only to the patients but to their families too to be able to have their loved ones close. Please feel free to contact me if you need further detail.

Sincerely.

Mary Ellen Shultz