

January 14, 2020

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

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**HEALTH FACILITIES
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

RE: Javon Bea Hospital's Establishment of Subacute Care Unit

To Whom It May Concern:

In collaboration with Mercyhealth, Van Matre Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital provides rehabilitation services to residents of the greater Rockford region including those relating to stroke, spinal cord, and brain injuries. We are in support of the establishment of a subacute care unit at the Javon Bea Hospital - Rockton Avenue Campus.

The establishment of a subacute unit (with 17 beds) will enable the hospital to better meet the needs of the greater Rockford community, including its most vulnerable residents by providing appropriate care to patients who, for any number of reasons, cannot either be timely transferred to a skilled nursing facility, or require services that are only available in a hospital setting. The proposed subacute unit thus, does not unnecessarily duplicate services provided in area skilled care facilities, and "plugs a hole" in available care in and around Rockford.

As you likely are aware, there is not sufficient rehabilitative care available to Medicare and Medicaid patients. Mercyhealth's proposal to provide stepped-down care will make it possible for more patients to access needed services after a hospital stay.

We have experienced this with Mercyhealth's sub-acute facility at their Janesville, Wisconsin hospital. Patients are more quickly prepared in their sub-acute facility and then transferred to Van Matre to receive the comprehensive rehabilitative services we provide. This is best for optimal recovery following any number of injuries.

Thank you for your prompt consideration and allowing the opportunity to encourage your approval of the Hospital's application.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Reese
Chief Executive Officer