



January 30, 2020

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W Jefferson Street / 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: CON Project 19-056

Dear Ms. Avery;

Amberwood Care Centre, a 132-Bed Skilled Nursing Facility, located at 2313 N. Rockton Ave, Rockford, Illinois, is directly across the street from Javon Bea Hospital's Rockton Avenue Campus.

Amberwood is a CMS 5-Star rated facility of excellence, providing both personalized integrated short term rehabilitative care, skilled and medically complex services, as well as long term care, as it collaborates closely with Mercyhealth in providing skilled nursing health care services to Rockford's residents. I respectfully note that my company and I have been in the health care profession for more than 50 years, and during that time have owned and managed more than 40 skilled nursing facilities throughout the State of Illinois. It is based on those years of experience that I have acquired the understanding of the possible implications to both the long term care and general health care communities of this 17-bed subacute initiative which is the subject matter of this CON application.

We believe the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board should approve Javon Bea Hospital's application to establish a 17-bed subacute care unit at its Rockton Avenue Campus.

The establishment of such a unit will serve discharged acute care patients, for whom it is most difficult to find proper placement into skilled nursing facilities, and will offer improved care coordination for these barely stable and most fragile patients.

As we understand it and as referenced in the Narrative, Purpose and Utilization portions of the CON application, admission to this proposed unit will routinely be limited to patients who otherwise could not find placement in a skilled nursing facility; patients who are too fragile and unstable to leave the greater hospital setting; and limiting their stay to approximately 14 days before transfer to alternative settings. We believe that this type of care is needed in the Rockford community for hospital patients unable to be discharged due to a lack of funding source and other reasons, as well as the 24/7 medical and clinical monitoring required by their very fragile and compromised physical conditions.

In sum, we support the Hospital's application and hope you will approve it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shael Bellows', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Shael Bellows
Amberwood Healthcare Centre, Inc.
President