

July 1, 2019

Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Ms. Avery,

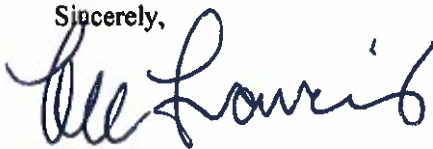
I am pleased to write on behalf of Erie Family Health Centers (Erie) in support of the planned affiliation between Swedish Covenant Health (SCH) and NorthShore University HealthSystem. Erie is a strong partner of Swedish Covenant Health, providing expanded health services for those in need through high-quality, cost-effective medical care as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). The Erie Foster Avenue Health Center (one of 13 Erie locations in Chicago and the surrounding suburbs) is our first location on a hospital campus, which allows for integrated care coordination along the health continuum. Through our partnership, numerous Erie providers have delivery privileges at Swedish Covenant Hospital, and Erie Foster Avenue patients have access to specialty care services provided by Swedish Covenant Health.

One key element to our partnership with Swedish Covenant Health is our role as a clinical training partner. Erie Foster Avenue Health Center serves as the training site for SCH's family medicine, internal medicine, podiatry, and pulmonology residency programs. This collaboration allows for great medical exposure and training, in part due to the nature of our diverse patient population. Furthermore, SCH is a consortia partner and inpatient training site for the Northwestern McGaw Family Medicine Residency based at Erie Humboldt Park Health Center. Erie is also an active participant in ongoing Community Leader engagement meetings, which emphasize community health initiatives including head injury prevention, Bystander CPR and other wellness targets. Swedish Covenant Health has worked closely with our organization to ensure that all members of the community have an opportunity to engage in important wellness offerings.

Swedish Covenant Health's partnership with NorthShore will strengthen and enhance its services for residents in the City of the Chicago. I believe that joining the NorthShore system will allow Swedish Covenant Health to adapt to the ever-changing health care environment while maintaining the patient-centric approach to care it has become known for. Swedish Covenant Health provides significant jobs, critical services, community support and many opportunities within the north side of Chicago. By combining resources with NorthShore, Swedish Covenant Health is taking a huge step to ensure that north side residents have the best, most cost-effective healthcare available, which translates into more stable, long-term healthcare and employment in the community.

This new collaboration will assure access to Swedish Covenant Health's high quality health services for the diverse community they have served for more than 130 years. Erie looks forward to a continued partnership with SCH as they take this next step to become part of NorthShore University HealthSystem.

Sincerely,



Lee Francis, MD, MPH
President and CEO