

1/26/21

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Chuck Johnson. I am the Administrative Coordinator of Behavioral Health Services at Blessing Hospital and have been a life-long resident of Adams County.

I thank the Review Board for the opportunity to comment on the Quincy Medical Group CON to build a 25-bed hospital at the Quincy Mall.

I must oppose this CON application and urge the Review Board to deny it.

Blessing Hospital is a 327 bed acute care not-for-profit, non-tax supported, independent hospital whose mission is to improve the health of our community. Blessing is a leader in quality patient and family-centered healthcare supporting a culture of excellence and financial sustainability.

Quincy Medical Group, a for-profit corporation, is seeking approval to build a small format hospital beside its Cancer Institute and Surgery Center. The proposed QMG hospital would have 25 beds, an emergency department with 10 bays, 3 operating rooms, 1 procedure room, 3 labor, delivery, recovery and postpartum rooms and a C-section suite.

The Health Facilities Planning Act encourages healthcare providers to engage in cost containment, better management and improved planning. Organizations must justify that a proposed project is needed and is financially and economically feasible. There is no need for duplicative medical inpatient services for two hospitals in Quincy with a population of 40,000. In the Facility Planning Board Hospital Profile CY 2019, Blessing's facility occupancy rate was 62.5% and Obstetrics/Gynecology occupancy rate was 26.2%. With the onset of COVID-19 Blessing experienced an increase in med/surg and ICU census. By 2025 when QMG's 25 bed hospital facility is projected to be completed, the incidence of COVID will have decreased and the occupancy rates at Blessing Hospital returned to previous 2019 levels.



A member of the Blessing Health System

I urge you to consider the negative impact a duplication of services proposed in the Quincy Medical Group's CON would have on Blessing Hospital and the Quincy community.

Your prompt attention is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Chuck Johnson, NCC, ACS, LCPC