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Unit 202  
Naples, FL 34113

February 9, 2021

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

Re: Quincy Medical Group Hospital, Project #20-044

Dear Ms. Avery,

Twenty-eight years ago, the Quincy community and its two hospitals made the difficult decision that one hospital could provide higher quality and more cost-effective care than two hospitals. All worked diligently to combine the two hospitals, both with rich histories of serving the people of Quincy. This transaction concluded with the sale of St. Mary Hospital to Blessing Hospital.

Although many desired the continuation of both hospitals, our community spoke clearly that one hospital was in the community's best interest. The combination was supported by city and county governments, state and federal legislators, both hospital medical staffs and many employers in the Quincy area. The benefits were clearly identified by cost reductions and quality improvement as stated in the Hart-Scott-Rodino filing with the Department of Justice.

As President and CEO of St. Mary Hospital at the time of its sale, I understood and embraced the benefit to the Quincy community of one hospital. Even though this combination meant I would no longer be the Quincy hospital President and CEO, and I would have to pursue my professional career elsewhere. Quincy being a one hospital market continues to be the best structure to provide cost-effective high-quality care to the people of its market.

After St. Mary Hospital was sold, I became the Chief Financial Officer of Dot Foods, Inc., a large area employer, and continued in that role for over twenty-five years. The combination of two hospitals is a challenging task as is the operation of a large healthcare organization, and there have been times that I have encouraged Blessing leadership to be more aggressive with cost reduction and quality initiatives. However, I have never doubted that the cost structure and quality of care in Quincy are both better today than would have been possible if the two-hospital structure was not eliminated. The current hospital executive is open to area employers' input and invites their input on services needed and cost of services provided.

Because my perspective is unique, I elected to write this letter in opposition to the Quincy Medical Group adding unnecessary cost and duplicating hospital services to the Quincy marketplace.

Thank you for the opportunity share my thoughts.

Regards,

  
W.H. Metzinger