

April 6, 2022

Chairman Savage
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street
Springfield, Illinois 62761

RE: Quincy Medical Group Hospital Project 20-244

Dear Ms. Savage:

I am the Chief Executive Officer for Quincy Medical Group (“QMG”) and write this letter to describe the decade long community partnership between QMG and Memorial Hospital Association (“MHA”), an 18-bed Critical Access Hospital located in Carthage, Illinois. MHA is not a competitor of QMG, but rather a long-standing community partner that shares QMG’s goals and mission to improve access to care in rural Illinois.

Community Partners

QMG and MHA have been pillars of healthcare in Central Illinois for a long time. QMG has served the greater West Central Illinois region for 85 years and MHA has served Hancock County for over 70 years. Over a decade ago, QMG and MHA joined forces as community partners, recognizing a joint mission to improve care coordination of rural healthcare services and enhance access to more affordable, quality, local healthcare. Over the past 10 years, the partnership has realized its mission through various efforts, including extended QMG physician services, which include the provision of surgical support to MHA and specialty services to rural communities, coverage of MHA physicians including their sole OB-Gyn, and radiology shared services. Additionally, QMG has a roster of physicians that travel to Hancock County and provide care at MHA every day. This partnership, through the aforementioned efforts, has resulted in improved access to quality rural healthcare services, allowing residents to receive exceptional care in their hometown. Whether Covid, posting each organization’s job openings, or true collaboration in regard to unexpected coverage needs, the two leaders, Boards, and organizations, are partners in every sense of the word.

Healthcare Transformation Collaborative

In fall 2021, QMG and MHA took advantage of an opportunity to further transform care in West Central Illinois, by entering into a collaborative agreement to apply for the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services Healthcare Transformation Collaborative² grant. The purpose of the grant is to create “[a] person-centered, integrated, equitable, and dramatic change in the delivery of healthcare at the community level.”¹ The goal of the collaborative is to refocus healthcare delivery in Illinois around people and communities, which aligns with the goal that QMG and MHA had in forming their community partnership years ago. Through this collaborative, QMG and MHA plan to expand integrated services that will provide a full continuum of care through innovative technology and care models. The integrated services offered will include QMG Hospital, QMG Birth Center, hospital-at-home services, an expansion of behavioral health services, a virtual monitoring platform, and a rural medical village. If approved, the integration of these services, as well as existing QMG and MHA services, will truly transform care in this region.

Re-deployment of Beds

To further uphold the partnership’s commitment to transform healthcare delivery in West Central Illinois, the MHA Board of Directors passed a resolution in 2021 to affirm the redeployment of 6 to 8 of its medical surgical beds to QMG Hospital. That commitment still stands strong and was not made lightly on the part of MHA. The redeployment will constitute a “change in the bed count of a health care facility” and will occur at or near the time QMG Hospital commences operations. MHA will provide notice at the time of its bed reduction pursuant to 77 Il. Admin. Code 1130.240.

¹ See <https://www2.illinois.gov/hfs/Pages/HealthcareTransformation.aspx>

² <https://www2.illinois.gov/hfs/HealthcareTransformation/Documents/C01IdealStateCollaborative.pdf>

QMG and MHA share the same goals and a similar mission, which is to improve care coordination of rural healthcare services and enhance access to more affordable, quality, local healthcare. The relationship between the two organizations existed long before the QMG Hospital application was submitted to the HFSRB and before the grant application was submitted. We believe that the work we are doing and the care we are providing is fully aligned with the State of Illinois' healthcare priorities and we are proud to be delivering the same for West Central Illinois. QMG looks forward to a long future of continuing to partner and collaborate with MHA to provide high quality care and transform health care delivery in the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Carol Brockmiller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol Brockmiller
Chief Executive Officer, Quincy Medical Group