



May 24, 2021

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
c/o Courtney Avery, Administrator
525 W Jefferson St, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Letter of Support for the Relocation of IP Rehab Services to the Greater Peoria Specialty Hospital
Project: 21-014, Greater Peoria Specialty Hospital, Peoria

As a nursing home executive (Generations Corporation and Generations of Peoria, Peoria, IL), I am writing to express my support of the plans by OSF HealthCare and Kindred Healthcare to partner to provide comprehensive physical rehabilitation services in central Illinois. I support the plans to relocate rehabilitation services currently provided at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center to the Greater Peoria Specialty Hospital.

Residing within a nursing home can be a great option for stroke survivors, yet the seriousness of a stroke and the resulting physical, behavioral, and emotional side effects can vary widely. Often, stroke survivors will have care, medical, and rehabilitation needs that are greater than what can be provided within the nursing home setting alone.

I believe that inpatient rehabilitation is needed to help some of those we serve who have experienced a loss of function or disability due to stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, neurological disorders, orthopedic surgery and other conditions. Additionally, long-term acute care is an incredibly important component in delivering care for the most difficult-to-treat, critically ill and medically complex patients.

Bringing the rehabilitation services provided by OSF HealthCare into the same building as the long-term acute care at Greater Peoria Specialty Hospital will allow for synergies in staffing and efficiencies in care delivery for both rehabilitation and long-term acute care patients. The new collaborative programs will enhance care delivery and provide increased access for patients using these services in central Illinois.

I stand with OSF HealthCare and Kindred Healthcare in supporting patients and families who are seeking highly specialized yet local access to care. I appreciate your consideration and request your support of this project and approval by the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board.

Sincerely,

Patrick Baalke
Chief Operating Officer

Our family caring for your family for generations to come.