



**Erie Family Health Centers
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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Courtney Avery, Administrator
Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

RE: NorthShore University HealthSystem – Cardiovascular Services Project
(HFSRB No. 21-16)

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am the President and CEO of Erie Family Health Centers (Erie), a federally qualified health center serving 82,000 patients in the Chicago metropolitan area. Erie supports NorthShore University Health System's proposed project to enhance its cardiovascular service line with the construction of a new pavilion for heart and vascular procedures. Our organization believes that healthcare is a human right. We recognize that marginalized groups have long been denied access to quality healthcare, education and employment opportunities which has led to devastating health disparities. Erie is committed to confronting these inequities, and challenging ourselves to work with excellence and humility and to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in healthcare.

Erie operates 13 health center locations extending from Chicago to Evanston/Skokie to northern Lake County. Our healthcare services are provided regardless of patient income, insurance status or ability to pay. For over 10 years we have formally partnered with NorthShore University Health System on the care of vulnerable patient populations. We could not achieve our mission without partners like NorthShore and the large network of NorthShore hospitals and specialty providers who collaborate with Erie's clinicians to provide a full continuum of care to our patients. We believe NorthShore shares our organizational culture where the dignity and worth of each of our patients, staff, and learners are honored, and value is seen in everyone's unique differences. We pledge to continually explore and advance our values of social justice, excellence, impact, relationships and learning in collaboration with NorthShore across all levels of Erie.

The planned project will allow NorthShore to make significant investments to create state-of-the-art facilities to further enhance the quality of cardiovascular care delivered and grant patients improved access to the latest clinical techniques for the treatment of cardiovascular disease. Relative to Erie's mission, there are substantial and increasing disparities in cardiovascular disease outcomes between the wealthiest 20% and the poorest 80% of the population in the United States. As such, access to cardiovascular health services is particularly important to patients we serve and NorthShore makes those services available to our patients through a formal affiliation agreement with our organization. The new building attached to NorthShore Glenbrook Hospital will promote interdisciplinary care and improve patient experience by allowing clinicians to practice alongside one another and streamline efficiencies. This will allow other NorthShore locations, including those that support our obstetrics program as the newborn delivery units for expecting mothers, to continue providing high-quality care and focus on the other needs on the communities they serve.



Erie urges your approval of NorthShore's Cardiovascular Institute planned project. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lee Francis".

Lee Francis, MD, MPH

President and CEO