

Matthew Businaro, CPA
1888 McHaney Road
Harrisburg, IL 62946

July 2, 2021

Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street (2nd Floor)
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Matthew Businaro, and I am privileged to serve as Vice Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Harrisburg Medical Center (HMC), and I wish to convey my support of HMC joining Southern Illinois Healthcare (SIH). As a lifelong resident of Harrisburg, I have experienced, first hand, the excellent medical services provided by HMC. As a Director of HMC, I am excited about the opportunities this joining will afford HMC to not only continue, but to enhance this tradition of excellence.

Among the benefits of the transaction will be an opportunity to expand the variety of services available to patients in HMC's service area. Independent, rural hospitals often find physician specialist recruitment to be a significant challenge. SIH has committed to help HMC in recruiting those specialists to HMC's, which will allow the region greater access to much needed care closer to home. This expansion of services is an extension of both organizations' mission of caring to the communities of Southeastern Illinois.

Another benefit will be growth and expansion of mental health services for all of Southern Illinois. HMC's inpatient behavioral health unit is routinely operating at its maximum capacity, which illustrates the magnitude of the need for behavioral health services. Joining with SIH will provide resources to expand these services for the greater good of the entire region.

In addition to the previous benefits mentioned, joining with SIH will allow for enhancements to HMC's facilities and technology. SIH will ensure that resources are available to make capital improvements to HMC's facility, for example completion of additional buildouts and equipment necessary to operationalize those buildouts. This joining will enhance the patient experience as SIH will install Epic as HMC's electronic health record. Epic will greatly enhance the flow of patient information among the various healthcare providers patients will encounter wherever they may receive treatment in the SIH system.

Finally, in addition to the enhancements to patient services in Southeastern Illinois, the economic impact to the region must also be touted. Adding the aforementioned services will create several new jobs; physicians, nurses, technicians and support staff. Creating quality jobs will help our local communities keep talented products of our school systems at home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Matthew Businaro", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew Businaro, CPA
Vice-Chairperson
Harrisburg Medical Center Board of Directors