



SIH Medical Group

My name is Dr. Matthew Winkleman and I am a Family Medicine physician in Harrisburg. I am a native of Harrisburg and have been practicing there at the county's largest primary care group since 2005, where I currently serve as medical director. I'm here today to give my full support for Harrisburg Medical Center joining Southern Illinois Healthcare.

I understand both our community and its healthcare needs. Access to high-quality care is the hallmark of my practice, and an affiliation between our community's hospital and Southern Illinois Healthcare will enhance this objective. The communities of southeastern Illinois are medically underserved. SIH's plan to identify gaps in care to determine what services will be added or how those voids can be filled will provide better access and eliminate the need for my patients to drive long distances for specialty care, as many do currently.

I am highly dedicated to the education of medical students and other healthcare professionals. I regularly host students and promote rural medicine as a career choice. Harrisburg Medical Center becoming part of a larger health system will increase opportunities for local medical, nursing, and other allied health professional students by expanding offerings for clinical rotations, internships, and shadowing experience. This will, in turn, create a catalyst to drive organic growth of the local healthcare workforce.

Collaboration is the foundation to effective rural healthcare. Southern Illinois Healthcare and Harrisburg Medical Center already have a proven history of successful collaboration, and that collaboration is needed now more than ever. Rural hospitals are financially and operationally challenged. SIH's commitment to Harrisburg Medical Center and the areas it serves will not only enhance access to high-quality care but will provide a much-needed economic stimulus for the community.

The proposed transaction between Harrisburg Medical Center and Southern Illinois Healthcare will provide countless advantages in the form of quality of and access to care. I highly support this proposal and look forward to passing these benefits on to my patients.

Thank you.