



Administration

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June 21, 2021

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am honored to submit written testimony on behalf of Southern Illinois Healthcare, (SIH), as it relates to the pending change of ownership of Harrisburg Medical Center, (HMC).

The SIH Mission is: "We are dedicated to improving the health and well-being of all of the people in the communities we serve." This mission drives all that we do at SIH. This mission will not change in any way with the addition of HMC. We are very excited by the potential of improving the depth and breadth of services rendered in Harrisburg and surrounding communities.

SIH is interested in keeping people home for their healthcare. We appreciate the emotional and financial burden that traveling for care places not only upon the patient but also their care giver. We have become very adept at recruiting highly trained physicians and mid-level providers to further our ability to care for patients locally. We intend to bring that expertise to the community of Harrisburg, so its citizens can enjoy a similar benefit.

Much has been written about the inefficiencies in healthcare due to the lack of transparency of clinical data. Upon approval, SIH will begin the process of modernizing HMC's information systems by installing the current SIH platforms. This move can only enhance the care patients receive utilizing the most up to date systems possible.

We are very proud of the fact that SIH cares for all patients regardless of their personal situation. That commitment will be enhanced by our presence in Harrisburg as we can extend our reach to southeastern Illinois. The poorest among us often do not avail themselves to adequate care. By strengthening the medical capabilities in Harrisburg, we will be able to reach even more patients who so desperately need care in a timely fashion.

SIH is also very interested in improving care for those who suffer from mental illness. We are currently engaged in recruiting more mental health professionals to southern Illinois. We fully intend to explore how we can improve and grow services to care for those patients. Having access to HMC's capabilities in this area will allow for improved care for all southern Illinois.

Rest assured, SIH will grow services in Harrisburg and help HMC expand their clinical capabilities. We will create a more comprehensive system of care across our region and the citizens will benefit. We will invest in the facilities, the people, the community and the patients who need care in southeastern Illinois.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RPB', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rex P. Budde
President and CEO