



Connecting the Dots for Better Health



January 31, 2022

Mr. Mike Constantino
Project Review Supervisor
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

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

Re: Application No. E-056-21, Javon Bea Hospital-Rockton, Rockford

Dear Mr. Constantino and Ms. Avery,

Rockford Regional Health Council is an organization consisting of members from the healthcare, local government, education, and business communities. We are disappointed and concerned by the petition to eliminate inpatient beds and surgical services at the Mercyhealth Rockton Avenue campus. Our disappointment stems from what appears to be a systematic process of dismantling services on the west side of Rockford. Our concern relates to the inevitable adverse impact on access to care for the residents of the west side of Rockford.

The Council acknowledges the difficulty of operating in an environment of inadequate Medicaid reimbursement rates. We are continuing our efforts, which began a couple of years ago, to address this issue. Moreover, the Council is aware that infrastructure repairs must be completed in order to reduce the risk of flooding, and this matter should be addressed in the proper forum.

The petition cites a reduction in utilization of services as a reason to discontinue them. Did a reduction in demand lead to reduced utilization, or has a reduction in capacity led to a reduction in demand? That is the question that the Facilities Planning Board must answer.

The Council recommends that The Health Facilities Planning Board encourage all parties who have a stake in this matter to explore every solution to maintain existing services at the Rockton Avenue campus.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Rebecca Kendall in black ink.

Rebecca Kendall
Executive Director

Handwritten signature of Carol Schuster in black ink.

Carol Schuster
Board Chair