



Northwest Community Healthcare
800 W. Central Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60005 USA

John Kniery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

June 13, 2022

Dear Mr. Kniery,

I am writing to express my full support of the Northwest Community Certificate of Need application to grow and centralize our cancer program in the newly proposed Cancer Center in Schaumburg, Illinois.

About six years ago I was hired by NCH as the Executive Director of Cancer Services, to embark on a journey to transform cancer care for our community. Presently, the system has many excellent physicians and programs, but they are in multiple locations and venues. As I got to know the team members, (physicians, navigators, nurses, therapists, insurance specialists.), it became clear there was an overall sentiment that as a program, we wanted to grow, be seen as experts in many areas and offer high-tech and university type services; all in a location close to home with the patient as the center of the programs.

We recently conducted listening tours with the community to better understand what they wanted in a Cancer program. Unsurprisingly, the 3 main requests, were; all services in one location, specialized and accessible expert care, with coordination of services.

As the Executive Director of the Cancer Services Service Line, it became my mission to facilitate this team's effort to meet the group's vision to transform cancer care along with the community's expectations.

The proposed cancer center includes a comprehensive scope of services and programs that incorporates education and screening through diagnosis, multidisciplinary treatment and survivorship. Supportive care personnel and services including (but not limited to) social work, grief counseling, support programs, dietitian consulting and cooking programs, integrative medicine, financial counseling, survivorship programs are all included in this proposal. These support and complement the physicians, clinical programs and research initiatives that will be available. The center will also differentiate its services with the inclusion of nurse navigators in all major cancer types to provide the coordination of care that the community has requested.

NCH provides care for more than 1,500 new cancer patients annually, all looking for a patient-centric, differentiated experience. The Cancer Center will fulfill that need. One Vision, One Goal, One Location.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Rhea Trbojevic'.

Rhea Trbojevic, RN MS
Executive Director of Cancer Services
Northwest Community Healthcare