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Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St. Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Support **FOR** 24-014 OSF – Peru Expansion

As a child, any sizeable town had its own hospital. Medical services were received with limited technology and long hospital stays. Those simpler times are long gone. Much as we may wish for everyone to be able to receive care as they did in the past, medical costs have risen and budgets must be balanced to maintain a healthy medical status quo.

The proposal by OSF to designate the hospital in Peru as their hub reflects a thoughtful assessment of services needed in this area comprised of residents in both LaSalle and Bureau counties. Peru is located at the intersection of the Interstate 80 corridor and that of Interstate 39. These roads enable the efficient movement of patients from Princeton, Mendota, Ottawa, and Streator to Peru for more complex care when such cannot be provided by their local facility. To position the hub at any of the other locations would place an imbalanced burden of time and transportation on the residents of the furthest outlying communities. Roads are in better condition than years ago and movement between places can be facilitated by both ground and air ambulances. A trip of 20 miles is no longer as insurmountable as once was the case. With a hanger and dedicated helicopter already based in Peru, this will facilitate timely transfers

The proposal for an expansion of mental health in-patient services in the new Ottawa facility is a very positive advancement of such care for this area. Coupled with the newly designed facility to deliver a variety of out-patient services and limited in-patient stays, this is a long range solution for the cost effective delivery of services in the future without the costs and headaches of an inefficient and old building.

I truly wish every town could have the facilities to deliver babies, but I am realistic concerning the costs and issues of fulfilling that wish both related to equipment and staff. With advancements in technology and the extensive team network already in place through OSF, I feel that the availability of quality care for all conditions will not be compromised by a hub plan in Peru.

Please give your full consideration to approving the OSF Peru Hub Proposal. Thank you very much for your attention to this proposal.

Sincerely,

Bette O'Donnell