



'TO SERVE AND TO GROW' 7531 STONY ISLAND AVENUE CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60649 (773) 947-7500

June 30, 2011

Ms. Julie Hamos
Director
Illinois Department of
Healthcare and Family Services
201 South Grand Avenue East
Springfield, IL 62763-0002

Dear Director Hamos,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with comments in response to the Coordinated Care Program. While we understand and support the State's efforts in implementing Public Act 96-1501, I would like to take a few moments to describe Jackson Park Hospital and our patients and the community that we proudly serve.

Jackson Park Hospital is one of the few remaining Joint Commission accredited independent community hospitals located on the south side of the City of Chicago that provides comprehensive services to its community. Some of these services are:

Acute Medical	Acute Behavioral	O.B./Labor and Delivery
Intensive Care	Medical Stabilization	Hospice Care
Step Down	Emergency Services	Partial Hospitalization
Surgery	Vascular Surgery	Diagnostic Services

By continuing to provide this full range of services to our community, day to day management of the facility is complex. There are several medical services that we could have eliminated over the years because they are un-profitable but our community and our Board convinced us not to do it. When you add the fact that 37% of our patients are on Medicaid, 19% are Medicaid Pending/Self Pay, and the hospital provided \$13,649,082 in charity care last year, it again adds to the complexity of balancing our fiscal resources with the community need.

Despite these challenges and with the support from the State and Federal government, the hospital was able to complete the construction of a new 30,000 square foot medical office building. This building contains our Family Practice Clinic and Family Practice Residency Program. Both of these program provide primary care to our Medicaid and Self Pay patients. The hospital has also committed to a multi year renovation project that will bring our O.B./Labor and Delivery and Nursery up to current standards.

Page 2.

Our patients principally come from our primary service area and can be described as working class. The average income level for our patients is \$27,972 annually, well below the State wide average of \$54,625. Our service area also contains a large population of homeless and transient people. The homeless and transient population account for a significant portion of our annual charity care and must be accounted for in developing the Coordinated Care Program. Most of the patients entering our system come in through the emergency room and cannot afford preventive care or health insurance. Because of this, our patients often have multiple illness or complications adding to our cost of providing care compared to regular patients.

Many of our patients are brought into our emergency room by the Chicago Police Department and due to their illnesses, they are non-compliant with their post discharge care. Because of the recent closure of State operated facilities, this is a growing problem.

We appreciate the reimbursement that we are currently receiving from the State, however any reductions in reimbursement by the State will place Jackson Park Hospital in financial jeopardy.

This is a tiny snapshot of Jackson Park Hospital. Over the years we have had an excellent working relationship with the department of Healthcare and Family Services. Again, understanding and supporting the State's efforts in implementing Public Act 96-1501, our senior management team is willing to meet with you and participate in a solution. We are proud of what we have accomplished here at Jackson Park Hospital and would like to invite any official responsible for implementing the Coordinated Care Program to meet us and tour our facility. I would like to personally volunteer to serve on any committee that will assist the State in implementing this critical program.

Sincerely,

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

Nelson Vasquez
Vice President Finance