

Murer Consultants, Inc.

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58 North Chicago Street
7th Floor
Joliet, IL 60432
815-727-3355 Telephone
812-727-3360 Telefax

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

December 13, 2011

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

RE: Letters of Objection to Palos Hills Surgery Center's Certificate of Need

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Mr. Galassie:

Murer Consultants, Inc. received letters of objection from the following providers, regarding the certificate of need for the proposed facility, Palos Hills Surgery Center (PHSC):

Aiden Center for Day Surgery | Ashton Center for Day Surgery | Justice Med Surgery Center
Oak Brook Surgical Center | Silver Cross Hospital

We have carefully reviewed each provider's concerns, and prepared the following responses:

Aiden Center for Day Surgery and Ashton Center for Day Surgery

Both Aiden Center and Ashton Center assert that there are a multitude of office-based surgical facilities, ambulatory surgical centers, and hospitals with outpatient surgical facilities within the health facilities planning board area of the proposed facility, and the introduction of another facility would impede the available resources. The surgical centers in the area only provide generalized services however, and do not provide specialized services and comprehensive care for injuries to the hand and upper extremities as PSCH will provide. The applicants do not perform surgeries at either Ashton or Aiden, and the establishment of PSCH will result in a zero percent effect on them.

PSCH will have a limited focus, enabling PSCH surgeons to provide superior quality of care to their patients in a specific treatment area. PSCH will focus on streamlining the continuum of

care for their patients by establishing an outpatient office, which focuses on post-surgical consultation services and physical therapy, at the same location as its surgery center. Therefore, PSCH will be able to provide highly integrated, specialized care to all patients with injuries to the hand and upper extremities.

Moreover, surgeons at Aiden and Ashton Centers may have difficulty treating patients at both surgery centers in a timely manner, as a result of their limited operating hours and forced surgery rescheduling. Patients undergoing a traumatic injury require immediate care, and with such restricted hours, a patient may not be able to receive the timely care needed resulting in decreased patient outcomes. PSCH will provide services until 7pm and on Saturdays, leading to a reduction of any potential complications caused by delayed service.

Finally, the geographic locations for Aiden Center and Ashton Center are Addison and Hoffman Estates, respectively. Both centers claim that the introduction of another ASC would impede existing resources. Ashton Center however, is over forty miles from the proposed site for PHSC, and outside of the General Service Area for PHSC. Ashton Center is over twenty miles from the proposed site. PHSC will be nowhere near these existing facilities, and neither center has produced evidence to validate the statement that PHSC will affect either existing ASC negatively by ten percent.

Oak Brook Surgical Center

Oak Brook Surgical Center alleges that the proposed facility could impede their operation by at least ten percent. They have not done any research on this matter however, and there is no valid proof to legitimize this claim. Furthermore, given the fact that the applicants do not conduct any surgeries at this facility, the establishment of Palos Hills Surgery Center will result in a zero percent effect on them.

The surgical centers in the area, including Oak Brook, are general in nature and do not provide specialized services or comprehensive care for injuries to the hand and upper extremities. Studies have shown that the most cost effective and efficient surgery centers are those devoted to a single specialty. PSCH will have a limited focus, concentrating solely on injuries to the hand and upper extremities, and will be located over 15 miles from Oak Brook, neither of which will affect Oak Brook Surgical Center's current operations.

Justice Med Surgery Center

Justice Med Surgery Center (JMSC) asserts that since they are only operating at 30 percent capacity having another facility in the area will result in duplication of services. However,

JMSC does not provide any specialized services or comprehensive care for injuries to the hand and upper extremities, while PHSC will specialize in these services.

PSCH will have a limited focus, which will enable PSCH surgeons to provide superior quality of care to their patients. PSCH will also focus on streamlining the continuum of care for their patients by placing an outpatient office, which focuses on post-surgical consultation services and physical therapy, at the same location as PSCH. Therefore, PSCH is able to provide highly integrated care to all patients with injuries to the hand and upper extremities.

JMSC also states that they are fully capable of providing orthopedic surgery, yet they have failed to realize that injuries to the hand and upper extremities often result in extremely complicated conditions that require sophisticated equipment and significant expertise. Consequently, JMSC would need to invest in specialized, orthopedic/microsurgical equipment in order for them to become equipped to treat such difficult injuries.

Even though JMSC claims they have excess capacity, surgeons may have difficulty treating patients there in a timely manner as a result of limited operating hours and forced surgery rescheduling. Patients undergoing a traumatic injury require immediate care, and with such restricted hours, a patient may not be able to receive the timely care needed resulting in decreased health outcomes for patients. PSCH however, will provide services until 7pm and on Saturdays, thus, leading to a reduction of any potential complications caused by delayed service.

Silver Cross Hospital

Silver Cross Hospital states that there is capacity in the market to absorb the cases that PHSC would acquire. Specifically, Silver Cross Hospital asserts that they are opening a brand new facility, which will have operating room capacity available. While this may be the case, an ASC in the Palos Hills area will allow patients to seek treatment locally rather than travel the 17 miles to New Lenox. Time saved would lead to receiving optimal and specialized treatment provided by PHSC. In general, treatment at an ASC is also more cost-effective than treatment provided by hospitals.

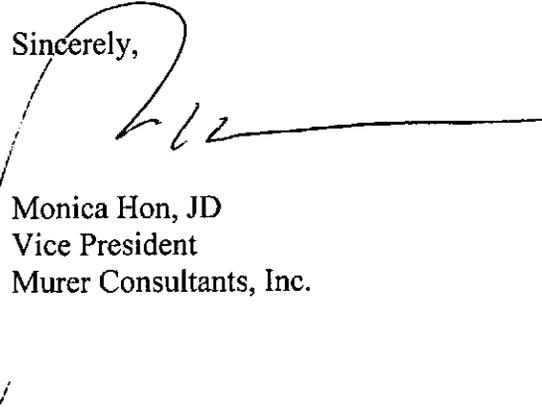
Over the four years that Dr. Kronen has maintained privileges at Silver Cross, he has only performed a few procedures there and will continue to perform procedures appropriate for a hospital operating room setting. If Silver Cross Hospital did absorb cases that would otherwise be acquired by PHSC, access to care would be impaired due to the limited availability of operating rooms and anesthesiologists at the hospital. A hospital's anesthesiology staff is usually not full-time at any single hospital location, nor does Silver Cross have the resources to maintain a full-time staff dedicated to the services provided by PSCH. Additionally, if anesthesiologists are unavailable, add-on surgeries cannot be accommodated even if the patient needs immediate

care. Given the anticipated volume of cases at PHSC, Silver Cross is incapable of providing the necessary services to PHSC patients, particularly as most PSCH treatment is ambulatory in nature. Finally, Silver Cross cannot guarantee multiple overlapping operating rooms, or show that it can maintain the necessary rapid turnover of operating rooms necessary to accommodate the volume of cases typically handled by an ASC. Indeed, over the past 12 months, neither Dr. Fakhouri nor Dr. Kronen has referred a single patient to Silver Cross.

The establishment of a focused and specialized surgery center handling hand and upper extremities injuries would greatly benefit the Palos Hills community. Treatment would be more convenient for patients with urgent needs as they would not have to travel at least 17 miles up to nearly 40 miles to seek care from a hospital or surgery center, neither of which offers specialized service or a focused continuum of care. This focused care shall result in optimum treatment and recovery for patients suffering from hand/upper extremity trauma.

We thank you for your consideration to this matter, and please feel free to contact us if there are any questions.

Sincerely,



Monica Hon, JD
Vice President
Murer Consultants, Inc.