

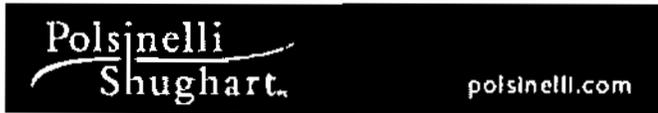
Roate, George

From: Joseph Van Leer [JVanLeer@Polsinelli.com]
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2012 11:18 AM
To: Roate, George
Cc: Kara Friedman
Subject: Proj. No. 11-103: Support Letter for Lawndale Dialysis
Attachments: LCHC Letter of Support 5 12.pdf

George,

Attached is a support letter for Lawndale Dialysis. Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks,

Joe



Joseph Van Leer
Associate

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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May 10, 2012

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Mr. Dale Galassie, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Letter of Support for Lawndale Dialysis – Proj. No. 11-103

Dear Mr. Galassie:

I am the Chief Executive Officer of Lawndale Christian Health Center (LCHC) located just a few blocks from the proposed site for Lawndale Dialysis. I am writing to express my support for DaVita's proposal to establish a 16-station dialysis facility in our community. Lawndale Dialysis will improve access to essential dialysis treatment services for community residents. I think that any organization should have the right to set up a business of this type without CON oversight.

LCHC is a Joint Commission-accredited provider of primary health care services for Lawndale and surrounding communities. We provide an array of community-based primary care medical services including: Family Practice, Internal Medicine, OB/Gyn, Pediatrics, Cardiology, Optometry, Dentistry, and Pharmacy adding up to over 192,000 visits of care each year. We strive to enhance the community we serve.

The communities we serve are largely Hispanic and African American. Both populations in our area largely low income and often have poor access to health care services such as dialysis. Many of the area's 120,000 residents are uninsured. Of the patients we serve approximately 4,000 of our patients suffer from diabetes. Access to care for North and South Lawndale residents are complicated by the fact that 70% of its residents do not have a high school education, reducing the likelihood that access to appropriate health care for conditions such as diabetes is being sought. Issues of access and disparities continue to exist.

Diabetes and hypertension are the two leading causes of kidney disease. Socioeconomically disadvantaged communities exhibit a higher prevalence of obesity, which is a primary driver of diabetes and hypertension. There is a higher prevalence of these conditions among African Americans and Hispanics. Thus, these populations are at an increased risk of ESRD compared to the general population.

Unfortunately, given the large population that is affected by diabetes, prevention and management are not the only services that are necessary to ensure patients have access to the care they need. DaVita is proposing to build a facility in Lawndale to provide life sustaining dialysis services. LCHC supports this effort and urges the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve this proposal.

Sincerely,

Bruce E. Miller, CEO