

Roate, George

From: Anne Cooper [ACooper@Polsinelli.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 21, 2012 6:35 PM
To: Roate, George
Cc: cindy.emley@davita.com; Kara Friedman
Subject: Tazewell County Dialysis (Proj. No. 12-052)
Attachments: Support Letters (08-21-2012).pdf; Usman Support Letter (08-20-2012).pdf

George,

Attached please find additional support letters for Tazewell County Dialysis. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thanks.

Anne

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AUG 22 2012

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD



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August 1, 2012

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AUG 22 2012

Dr. Dale Galassie, Chairman
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St.
Springfield, IL 62761

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

RE: Tazewell Dialysis Center

This letter is in support of the Tazewell County Dialysis Center as proposed by Dr. Ahsan Usman and DaVita, Inc.

For brevity, I offer the following bullet points regarding the benefits of having more than one provider of dialysis services in Central Illinois:

1. Understanding the Health Facilities & Services Review Board's primary focus is determining need for expansion of services, the Board should also consider the need for patient choice. During a recent public hearing conducted in Pekin, an overwhelming number of residents expressed their desire to have the opportunity of choice in renal dialysis providers.
2. The planned Tazewell County Dialysis Center is centrally located, providing more convenient access to residents of Tazewell, southeast Peoria, northeast Fulton, and Mason counties. The Pekin location will help alleviate hardships of travel on dialysis patients and their family members who may provide assistance and support with transportation and access.
3. By virtue of being the only area provider of dialysis services, the current provider holds a monopoly on jobs related to dialysis nursing and allied healthcare specialties specific to dialysis services. A nurse or allied healthcare specialist who may be at odds with the current provider has no other opportunity for employment in Central Illinois due to this monopoly.

Your approval of the Tazewell County Dialysis Center as proposed by Dr. Ahsan Usman and DaVita is strongly recommended.

Sincerely,



Jeff Lickiss, RN, NREMT-P
Former Member - Peoria County Board
Former Chairman - Peoria County Health Services Committee

July 1, 2012

Dr. Dale Galassie, Chairman
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL, 62761

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AUG 22 2012

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Re: Project # 12-052 Tazewell County Dialysis by DaVita Dialysis and Dr. Usman

Dear Chairman Galassie,

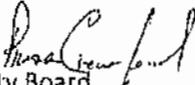
Consider this letter a transmittal of support for the proposed Tazewell County Dialysis by DaVita, Inc and Dr. Usman to be located in Pekin, IL. As an elected member of the Tazewell County Board, Chairman of the Tri-County River Valley Development Authority (TCRVDA) and former Chairman of the Tazewell County Economic Development Committee, I believe this proposed facility will assist in meeting the needs for accessible dialysis services for the citizens of Pekin and Tazewell County.

Additionally, this project will convert a vacant old Walgreen building into a viable business. For almost a decade, there has been only one dialysis provider in Pekin. Consequently, the citizens deserve the opportunity to have local competition in providing for their dialysis service needs.

Consequently, benefits of establishing another dialysis facility by another provider in Pekin include:

1. creation of a provider choice for healthy competition for residents.
2. utilization of a vacant building which has been empty for more than two years.
3. availability of approximately 15 new stable jobs for our community.
4. alleviation of hardship on patients and their families who currently travel to Peoria.
5. enabling new construction jobs during building conversion into a dialysis center.
6. addressing a growing medical need.

Please support this proposed facility project and allow additional dialysis services for the citizens of Tazewell County, thereby expanding both critical medical health services and much needed economic development.

Best Regards,
Russ Crawford 
Tazewell County Board
Tri-County River Valley Development Authority Chairman
204 District Court
E. Peoria, IL, 61611-1411
Cell: 309-265-2468
Office: 309-694-2827



**Kidney
HealthCare, P.C.**
Healthy Kidneys for Life.

**Ahsan Usman, M.D.
Mohammed Shakaib, M.D.**

19 Olt Avenue, Pekin, IL 61554

Phone: 309-642-6705

Fax: 309-347-2623

August 20, 2012

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

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

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AUG 22 2012

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Re: Tazewell County Dialysis (Proj. No. 12-052)

Dear Mr. Galassie:

I will be the medical director of the proposed Tazewell County Dialysis. I am writing in support of DaVita's proposal to establish a new dialysis facility in Pekin and to further explain why a new dialysis facility is needed in Pekin.

Currently, there is one dialysis facility in Pekin, which has been operating at or above the State's 80% utilization target for over four years and is currently operating at 94.4% utilization. Given this high utilization, patients initiating dialysis for the first time are placed on a wait list for dialysis in Pekin and must travel to Peoria for dialysis. They, in essence, wait for a patient to die or receive a transplant. It often takes months for patients to transfer from one of the Peoria facilities to the Pekin facility. When patients can finally be admitted to the Pekin facility, they must choose between dialyzing in Peoria during the day or dialyzing in the evening in Pekin. Third shift, which often lasts through the early evening hours, is suboptimal for many dialysis patients who suffer multiple co-morbidities and rely on assistive devices, such as canes and walkers, and are faced with additional safety hazards when arriving and departing the facility in the dark. A new facility in Pekin would allow patients to dialyze closer to home and during more optimal times.

Further, the Peoria facilities are not viable options for many of my patients who reside in communities to the south and southwest of Pekin, which include Atlanta, Canton, Manito, and Topeka. Patients residing in these communities must travel over 45 minutes to dialyze at one of the Peoria facilities. A new facility in Pekin would reduce the hardship to these patients and their families, who must transport their loved ones to and from dialysis three days per week. With the prospect of 60 to 90 minutes to drive home, family members and friends are forced to stay in Peoria during the 3½ to 4 hours of treatment.

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Additionally, there are continuity of care issues for my patients if they dialyze at the Peoria facilities. I have applied for privileges at the three Peoria area hospitals. While I received privileges at Methodist Hospital, I was denied privileges at Proctor Hospital and granted restricted privileges at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center ("OSF") based on an exclusive contract with the competing medical group. See Attachments 1 & 2. I am concerned for my patients if they suffer an adverse event at one of the Peoria facilities that requires hospitalization. Importantly, insurance companies often dictate where a patient can receive care. As OSF is the largest hospital in Peoria, many of my patients would likely be transferred there if they require hospitalization while dialyzing in Peoria. While I can admit patients to OSF, my restricted status makes it difficult for me to treat my patients, particularly when they require dialysis. Therefore, I would need to transfer my patients' care to another nephrologist with unrestricted privileges. In fact, I recently had a patient dialyzing at one of the Peoria facilities that had to be hospitalized at OSF. Due to my status, I had to transfer her/his care to another nephrologist. A new facility in Pekin would provide for greater continuity of care for my patients in the event they require hospitalization before or during dialysis. I have full privileges at Pekin Hospital to admit and treat patients, and if they obtain dialysis care in Pekin, these continuity of care issues are greatly improved.

While Peoria and Pekin are less than fifteen miles apart, there are distinct cities with their own identities. Both cities developed in the early 19th century on opposite sides of the Illinois River. Because there were no public bridges spanning the Illinois River until after the Civil War, the cities developed independently of one another. Today, Peoria and Pekin retain their separate identities despite their proximity to one another. Peoria, which is the County Seat of Peoria County, is known more as an industrial center with Caterpillar and Komatsu America calling Peoria home whereas Pekin, the County Seat for Tazewell County, has a more diversified economy with various professional, industrial and manufacturing companies based in Pekin.

The location of the proposed Tazewell County Dialysis is ideally located. It is centrally located in the city of Pekin, approximately 1/3 of a mile from Pekin Hospital, and is easily accessible to patients who reside in Pekin. Further, it is more convenient to patients who live in neighboring communities to the South and Southwest of Pekin. Therefore, friends and family members who transport patients for dialysis can return home or to work while their loved one dialyzes, minimizing some of the burden dialysis places on the patient's family and friends.

Finally, Tazewell County Dialysis will provide residents of Pekin and the surrounding area with a choice in dialysis provider. At the public hearing held on July 18, 2012, there was overwhelming public support for the project, with most residents stating their desire for a choice of dialysis provider.

Thank you for your consideration. I strongly support DaVita's application for Tazewell County Dialysis.

Sincerely,



Ahsan Usman, M.D.

Attachments

cc: Michael Constantino

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