

**Constantino, Mike**

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2013 10:13 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Subject:** FW: Birth centers

12-084

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**From:** Dr. Jill House [mailto:chirohouse@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2013 12:36 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Birth centers

Hello, I was told you can get a message to the board for me. I am very much in support of birth centers esp in SW burbs. I had to drive to Oak park from Lockport while in labor to get to my midwives hospital. I had a great all natural experience but mothers to be should have more options.

Jill House, DC

## **Constantino, Mike**

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2013 10:13 AM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Subject:** FW: Attention HFSRB board: support letter for PCC Birth Center application  
**Attachments:** south suburban doula pcc support letter.pdf

**Categories:** Red Category

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Yvonne O. [mailto:o.yvonne@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2013 7:08 AM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** Attention HFSRB board: support letter for PCC Birth Center application

Ms Avery,

Please find my letter of support for the PCC Birth Center application to the IL Health Facilities and Services Review Board for their review scheduled for 2/5.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Yvonne Oldaker  
South Suburban Doula Services  
Homewood IL  
708-275-9660

January 15, 2013

To The Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board,

I am writing this letter in support of the PCC Community Wellness Center's application to open a Birth Center.

As a DONA-International certified doula, I have supported families in the south suburbs through their search for safe, quality, mother and baby friendly places to give birth. Many of the families I work with desire minimal interventions, support for breastfeeding, and strong communication with their care providers. Birth centers provide all of these.

I worked at a federally qualified health center in the south suburbs for 5 years in a women's health clinic. There, I listened to many women who received prenatal care and birth services covered by Medicaid voice their concerns about their care. Frequent complaints included long wait times for providers who had large patient loads and delivered at a hospital that they would not have chosen if they had private insurance. Additionally, because we are located in the south suburbs, where there are not as many options available as other areas of Chicago, these women who desired midwife-attended homebirths often could not find a midwife who could care for them in this area.

As a mother of three daughters, two born at home and one born in a Chicagoland hospital, I am personally aware of Illinois' families need for more pregnancy care options. Midwives attended all three of my births, because I sought care that would empower me to learn about my pregnancies, my children, and how to be an optimally healthy mother. The care I received from my midwives exceeded my expectations as a patient. However, since I live in the south suburbs, I had to travel nearly an hour one way to receive this care. If a birth center had been available to me as a choice of where to give birth, I certainly would have chosen one.

The establishment of a Birth Center through PCC Community Wellness Center not only provides expanded care options for all families, it also creates an opportunity for other Chicagoland providers to learn, collaborate, and build upon their services so all families throughout Illinois have access to the type of pregnancy care they desire.

Sincerely,



Yvonne Oldaker, MPA, CD(DONA)

South Suburban Doula Services

PO Box 1584

Homewood IL 60430

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Avery, Courtney  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2013 2:33 PM  
**To:** Constantino, Mike  
**Subject:** FW: PCC South Birth Center letter of support

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**From:** Carrie Vickery [mailto:carrievickery@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2013 2:29 PM  
**To:** Avery, Courtney  
**Subject:** PCC South Birth Center letter of support

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review board  
attn: Courtney Avery

January 15, 2013

To whom it may concern:

I'm writing in support of the birth center application by PCC South of Berwyn, IL. I have been waiting a long time for birth centers to become an option in Illinois. Had a birth center been an option for any of my children I would have considered that before hospital birth. I hope that if I have another child in the future that I'll have the choice of this birth center as an option. Even though I live some distance out from Berwyn, I know that I would be willing to travel for access to a birth center.

There aren't many options for those of us who want an out of hospital birth, and I believe that this provides an excellent choice for those of us who want access to care in a homelike setting. We need more options like this in Illinois.

Please approve the birth center application for PCC South.

Thank you!

Carrie Vickery  
Oswego, IL