

Constantino, Mike

12-084

From: Avery, Courtney
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2013 11:16 AM
To: Constantino, Mike
Subject: FW: HSFRB

From: Sarah Glover [mailto:glover.sla@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2013 11:11 AM
To: Avery, Courtney
Subject: HSFRB

I just wanted to ask the support of the board and share my own excitement that ILLINOIS' VERY FIRST FREE-STANDING BIRTH CENTER has submitted its application from PCC Wellness Center on Roosevelt Road in Berwyn.

As a mother and a volunteer for birthing families I can tell you that I get weekly questions asking when/if/how Illinois can have a birth center for their labor and delivery options. So many mothers desire a safe setting that is nearer a hospital and staffed with professionals who are used to attending physiological normal births. Unlike hospitals, that are set-up to handle high risk situations, a birth center can be the birth options that mothers seek. This environment difference plus the option of continuous care can mean better birth outcomes. OB's and hospital CNM's have to say to patients "STAY HOME AS LONG AS POSSIBLE" before coming to L&D. This is likely because they cannot continually support so many moms during early hours of labor, bc they know that being in a hospital increases your chances of unnecessary interventions, bc they know that a women in labor is influenced by her environment and the hospital isnt conducive to hthe nurturing atmosphere a laboring women needs to birth her baby healthfully, and because there isnt an option in Illinois for women to be attended out of home with the type of care associated with birthing centers.

With my work for cesarean mothers and those whove had traumatic birth experiences, its become clear that such an option is vital for the long term health of families. In groups cesarean mothers and those whove experienced a previous hospital birth but cannot face the LD again are in search for an option that doesnt put the provider or parents at risk of legal actions. Nothing is more important to a birthing family than the health and safety of their infant and more and more evidence is making it clear that there is much we can do to support mother/baby friendly births, including birth center availability. For myself, a vaginal birth after cesarean mother, a birth center was something we so badly wanted as an option so that we'd have the best possible chance of allowing a healthy birth, uninterferred w interventions.

Thank you for time and commitment to healthy families.
Sarah Glover
Willowbrook, IL