

Constantino, Mike

From: Frankel, David [david.frankel@sinai.org]
Sent: Tuesday, November 20, 2012 4:23 PM
To: Avery, Courtney
Cc: Constantino, Mike
Subject: Support Letter for Lawndale Dialysis, Project 12-085
Attachments: Mount Sinai Support Letter for Lawndale Dialysis Project 12 085.pdf

Good Afternoon Ms. Avery,

On behalf of Mount Sinai Hospital, I am submitting the attached letter to the IHFSRB in support of Lawndale Dialysis, Project 12-085.

Thank you and best regards,
David



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November 20, 2012

Mr. Dale Galassie, Chairman
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Support Letter for Lawndale Dialysis (Proj. 12-085)

Dear Chairman Galassie:

On behalf of Mount Sinai Hospital Medical Center of Chicago (Mount Sinai), I am writing to support the Lawndale Dialysis proposal to establish a 16-station dialysis facility in the Lawndale community in the City of Chicago. Mount Sinai strongly supports this project and expressed our reasons for participation in it as a joint venture at a public hearing held for the planned dialysis unit on October 23, 2012. At that public hearing and through public comments, this project has received significant community support.

We would like to address some of the statements made in opposition to the proposed Lawndale Dialysis facility, particularly relating to financially needy patients. The fact is that Mount Sinai has been the core non-profit provider of inpatient and outpatient dialysis services on the West side of Chicago for almost 50 years, longer than nearly any other provider in the country. As part of Mount Sinai's commitment to patients suffering from kidney disease, we have employed a group of nephrologists for many years, and operate an outpatient dialysis facility on our campus. That facility has served our community, including residents of North and South Lawndale, for decades. This facility has continuously met the Board's quality and safety net impact criteria in doing so. We also note that DaVita, which we will joint venture with, has served the City of Chicago in various communities for well over 20 years. It is one of the pre-eminent providers of dialysis services and has the programs in place that will ensure our community is provided education on prevention, diabetes care, transplant opportunities and related services for those experiencing CKD and dialysis.

Our hospital-based outpatient dialysis service is above the 80% target utilization rate, the patients are predominantly African American or Latino and most are financially needy. This is documented in the IHRSRB/IDPH provider inventory data. We recognize, and have documented in the Lawndale Dialysis CON application, the tremendous need for kidney care in this community. In fact, another provider and physician practice has



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recently submitted documentation to the IHFSRB identifying approximately 1,000 patients in the community who are suffering from chronic kidney disease. In our experience, approximately one half of a CKD population will experience kidney failure and require renal replacement within two years. However, we are not proposing a facility to treat 500 ESRD patients. This facility will be designed to serve less than 100 patients. Nonetheless, given those figures we certainly believe our proposal is warranted to address the far higher incidence and prevalence of kidney disease in the City of Chicago and in our immediate community.

The Lawndale Dialysis facility will address access to services for financially challenged and minority patients in the Lawndale area. Based on the affirmative commitments to charity care in our joint venture with DaVita as well as the representations contained in the CON application, Mount Sinai has ensured a strong commitment of the proposed dialysis facility to the underserved community that we serve. In fact, we have learned more in recent months about DaVita's admissions policies including the fact that at any given time DaVita (along with Mount Sinai Hospital) is treating numerous ESRD patients who fall through the cracks of conventional insurance and payment mechanisms. We are confident that all patients, regardless of their ability to pay – even those receiving care based on the HFS Chronic Renal Disease Program which provides for the most modest benefits for ESRD services – will have access to services at the Lawndale Dialysis facility. In this regard, we now can state that this project will not have a negative impact on safety net services. To the contrary, it will strengthen the safety net we have strived to provide for so many years for residents of our community. The project now meets the Board's safety net criteria.

We cannot ignore the significant health disparities that our community faces and we urge members of the Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve the Lawndale Dialysis facility to help us improve the health and wellness of our community.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Frankel". The signature is fluid and cursive.

David Frankel
Vice President, Planning, Marketing & Communications