

Constantino, Mike

From: Avery, Courtney
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 10:01 AM
To: Constantino, Mike
Subject: Fw: Letter of support, SIH Cancer Center Project #13-005
Attachments: SIH Cancer Center Project #13-005 letter of support.pdf

From: Bridget Baltzell [mailto:bridgetb@jchdonline.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2013 09:58 AM Central Standard Time
To: Avery, Courtney
Subject: Letter of support, SIH Cancer Center Project #13-005

Attached please find Jackson County Health Department's letter of support for SIH Cancer Center Project #13-005.

Bridget Baltzell
Administrative Assistant
Jackson County Health Department
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JACKSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Promoting Health, Preventing Illness, Protecting our Environment, and Preparing for Emergencies

March 1, 2013

Ms. Courtney R. Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: SIH Cancer Center, Project #13-005

Dear Ms. Avery:

Please consider this letter endorsing Southern Illinois Healthcare's effort to build a comprehensive, freestanding cancer center to serve patients throughout a seven county region of rural southern Illinois. As the administrator for Jackson County Health Department I would welcome having the support of such a center to provide services to those in need and to expand programming that will improve the lives and longevity of those living in Southern Illinois. Thousands of these patients live in the most impoverished counties of Illinois, many of which have the additional misfortune of being among those with the highest cancer incidence rates in the state.

Cancer experts estimate that the average patient may experience up to 100 visits in the first year of treatment alone. Instead of enduring long, tedious and expensive travel outside of Illinois, weary patients, their family and friends will now benefit from the streamlined, team-based care the SIH Cancer Center can provide close to home.

For the first time in southern Illinois, the region would benefit from the full continuum of cancer care in a single locale. These vital services range from radiation therapy, chemotherapy, and a home for multidisciplinary teams for breast, lung, gastrointestinal, genitourinary and head and neck cancers to clinical trials, support, survivorship and rehabilitation. The SIH Cancer Institute's academic affiliation with the Simmons Cancer Institute at the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield also brings other, much-needed resources to southern Illinois.

Additionally, many of the patients that will ultimately receive care at the SIH Cancer Center are among our state's most vulnerable--elderly, low-income and uninsured. A federal designation also cites each of the seven counties in SIH's service area as "Health Professional Shortage Area(s) for Primary Medical Care."

I enthusiastically support SIH's commitment to bring this caliber of cancer care to southern Illinois. Thank you for your time and attention to this project.

Sincerely,

Miriam Link-Mullison, Administrator

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