

Constantino, Mike

From: Robin Koehl [RKoehl@bicountyhealth.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2013 3:48 PM
To: Avery, Courtney; Constantino, Mike
Subject: SIH Cancer Center, Project 13-005
Attachments: SIH Cancer Center LOS 2013.docx

Dear Ms. Avery:

Please see the attached letter of support for a proposal from Southern Illinois Healthcare, Carbondale, IL, for a cancer center for our region. It is with great pleasure and excitement that I submit this letter for your consideration for full support of this important project! Please contact me with any questions regarding this endorsement. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Robin Koehl, Administrator
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March 20, 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,

On behalf of Franklin-Williamson Bi-County Health Department, I am taking this opportunity to endorse Southern Illinois Healthcare's effort to build a comprehensive, freestanding cancer center to serve patients throughout a seven county region of rural southern Illinois. Thousands of these patients live in the most impoverished counties of Illinois. Many of these counties have the additional misfortune of being among those with the highest cancer incidence rates in the state. Many of the patients who will ultimately receive care at the SIH Cancer Center are among our state's most vulnerable--elderly, low-income and uninsured. In fact, all seven of the counties in SIH's service area are federally designated as "Health Professional Shortage Area(s) for Primary Medical Care."

The health department recently completed the IPLAN (Illinois Project for Local Assessment of Needs) process and "access to care" was identified as a leading health priority for Franklin and Williamson counties. Our rural area creates challenges for families who are affected by a cancer diagnosis. Instead of enduring long, tedious and expensive travel outside of Illinois, weary patients along with their family and friends will benefit from the streamlined, team-based care the SIH Cancer Center will be able to provide under one roof. For the first time in our region, SIH would offer the full continuum of cancer care in a single locale. I understand these vital services would include radiation therapy, chemotherapy, a home for multidisciplinary teams for breast, lung, gastrointestinal, genitourinary and head and neck cancers, clinical trials, support, survivorship and rehabilitation care. The SIH Cancer Center also enjoys an academic affiliation with the Simmons Cancer Institute at the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield. The breadth of this partnership brings additional, much-needed resources to southern Illinois.

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

Respectfully,



Robin Koehl
Administrator