Presence℠
United Samaritans Medical Center

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JUN 24 2014
HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

by FedEX

June 23, 2014

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: STATEMENT OF OPPOITION
The Carle Foundation Hospital
Project 14-015
Addition of Medical/Surgical Beds

Dear Ms. Avery:

Presence United Samaritans Medical Center ("PUSMC") opposes the proposed addition of 48 medical/surgical beds to The Carle Foundation Hospital for two primary reasons:

1. The application does not meet the Board's minimum threshold criteria for community need
2. Patients need their local hospitals for emergent and routine care, and if approved, this application could have a detrimental impact on critical safety net hospitals, like PUSMC

As a physician leader, I could understand the merits of Carle's application if our area's population was growing, inpatient utilization was rising, or a new influx of residents was expected. None of these factors exist, which raises the obvious question: "If approved, will Carle's application preserve or enhance access to care for patients from their local community hospitals?" The answer is no. There is already excess capacity at all surrounding hospitals and a flat growth rate. Carle's plan to shift market share from local hospitals in the community may be a shrewd business strategy, but it will negatively impact the delivery of patient care within the region. Case in point: Carle recently shifted several specialists and primary care physicians, away, from Danville to Carle-owned facilities that are well outside the community.

At a time when the health care industry has shifted focus from a delivery model focused on "sick care" to one that looks toward prevention and wellness, Danville's patients are faced with the added burden of longer drives (during Illinois winters!) to get basic and specialty care. Instead of enhancing the quality of care to meet the needs of patients, Carle is eroding it.

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Local hospitals are struggling to keep their doors open as costs escalate and reimbursements decline. But we have—at a very personal level—been driven by our mission to keep fundamental and critical services accessible to patients. For hospitals like PUSMC, the loss of a few patients a day adds up to hundreds of patient days over a year –enough to destabilize a critical community asset. Carle's application to expand services will do so at the expense of other hospitals in the area, like PUSMC and Presence Covenant.

Our patients deserve the much needed access to critical medical services in their communities where they reside. And that is why, on behalf of the medical staff, employees, and volunteers of PUSMC, **we urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to deny this application.**

Sincerely,

Carmen Rocco, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer
Presence United Samaritan Medical Center

812 North Logan Avenue, Danville, Illinois 61832 **217.443.5000** presencehealth.org

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IROQUOIS
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
& RESIDENT HOME

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RE: Project 14-015
The Carle Foundation Hospital

Dear Ms. Avery:
Please accept this letter as documentation of Iroquois Memorial Hospital's **opposition** to The Carle Foundation Hospital's plans to increase their bed capacity.

We believe that the residents of central Illinois are best served through access to a number of hospitals providing clinical care that is beyond the scope of services that can be provided by our hospital. Two of the hospitals with the capabilities to do so are Carle and Presence Covenant, located within a few blocks of one another. Together, they and other hospitals in their planning area have more than enough capacity to meet patient need. Further adding to that capacity at one hospital would be a waste of healthcare resources and will not address other needs of underserved populations in the area. If Carle is permitted to add more unneeded beds, it may be an attempt to drive patients out of other area providers, ultimately reducing patient choice. For example, in our community of Watseka, Carle purchased a primary care practice and then moved some of those physicians out of the community and all of them discontinued their privileges at our hospital. Then those patients are now being redirected to Carle-owned facilities that are less accessible for many community residents.

We believe that Carle's application to add unnecessary Med/Surg beds in a planning area that is already over-bedded (excess of 158 beds according to the inventory) is not intended to address any real community need but simply to shift patients away from Presence Covenant, Iroquois Memorial Hospital and other regional providers, and is not in the best interest of the residents of East-central Illinois.

As such, Iroquois Memorial urges the Planning Board to deny Carle's application.

Sincerely,

Chuck Bohlmann

Chuck Bohlmann
Chief Executive Officer, Iroquois Memorial Hospital and Resident Home