

August 4, 2014

RECEIVED

AUG 05 2014

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Ms. Kathryn Olson
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Carle Foundation Hospital, Project 14-015

Dear Ms. Olson:

I am writing to once again express my full support of Carle Foundation Hospital's Certificate of Need application to add 48 beds to its Urbana facility. The healthcare industry and related reimbursement system is quickly evolving and with these changes, the demand for services at Carle has grown. I want to be clear that the proposed expansion is vital for Carle to be able to meet the needs of not only its local community, but also the needs of the entire region.

Richland Memorial Hospital (RMH) is pleased to be the provider of choice for health care services in Southeastern Illinois. RMH is a 135 bed, not-for-profit healthcare facility with a medical staff of 30 primary and secondary care physicians which provides a range of services that appropriately address the educational, prevention, diagnostic, and therapeutic needs of the communities we serve.

As outlined in my May 29, 2014 letter supporting Carle Foundation Hospital's proposal, hospitals like ours rely on open beds at Carle to care for those we might not have the specialty expertise to treat. Providing additional beds at Carle will help ensure access to residents of the communities we serve when they have tertiary care needs beyond the scope of our services.

I would like to restate my support for Carle's proposal without reservation. This project is critical to meet the demand for highly specialized healthcare; specialty care that only Carle can offer the region in general and our patients in particular.

I emphatically urge you to approve this application so patients can get the lifesaving care they need.

Sincerely,



David B. Allen
Chief Executive Officer



Paris
Community
Hospital
Family
Medical
Center

August 4, 2014

Paris Community Hospital
721 East Court Street
Paris, Illinois 61944
Phone: (217) 465-4141

Family Medical Center
727 East Court Street
Paris, Illinois 61944
Phone: (217) 465-8411

Family Medical Center
112 West Madison Avenue
Chrisman, Illinois 61924
Phone: (217) 269-2394

Family Medical Center
104 East Buena Vista Avenue
Kansas, Illinois 61933
Phone: (217) 948-5905

Ms. Kathryn Olson, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Carle Foundation Hospital, Project 14-015, Support Letter from Referring Facility

Dear Ms. Olson,

Thank you for supporting the proposal of Carle Foundation Hospital, which is pending before the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board. While most members of the Board present at the last meeting, including you, voted in favor of Carle Foundation Hospital's request to expand the number of patient beds, it is important that I express Paris Community Hospital's continued support of this project given the need for further review of this proposal by the full Board.

Carle's proposal to add beds to its primary bed category – medical/surgical beds - is necessary to reduce Carle's experienced high occupancy and to meet a projected demand for service that is based on its recent high and growing utilization. As the chief executive of one of the facilities whose medical staff routinely refers patients to Carle for high-acuity patients with complex needs, this letter serves as evidence of the growing demand for medical/surgical beds at Carle.

For our 25-bed critical access hospital in Paris, Illinois, it is essential to our community that access to tertiary care services is available in the region. Our designation as a critical access hospital alone, by limiting the average length of stay for our acute care patients, essentially restrains the complexity of cases that we manage in our community. Carle Foundation Hospital offers many lifesaving treatments not available elsewhere in the region. And while relatively close to home, our residents must still travel an hour to Carle. However, many patients from the Paris area are established patients with Carle physicians and therefore, choose to be transferred to Carle. If Carle is full, patients must travel outside of the region to receive care.

I again urge you to approve this crucial project that will support the ongoing health and vitality of the communities of east central Illinois.

Sincerely,

Oliver M. Smith, President and Chief Executive Officer
Paris Community Hospital/Family Medical Center

*Committed to
Community and
Family Health*



THE CARLE FOUNDATION

611 W. Park Street | Urbana, Illinois 61801



July 31, 2014

Ms. Kathryn Olson
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Supporting project # 14-015

Dear Ms. Olson:

As director of Carle Foundation Hospital's Emergency Department, I write to express support for more beds needed to provide advanced health services in this region. With the increasing demand for care, we understand the need to keep care in local communities, but it is often necessary for patients to transfer to Carle for the highest level of treatment available in the geographic area. In fact, there are many cases where Presence Covenant and United Samaritans divert patients to Carle and our professionals remain ready to serve.

Carle's emergency room stands out with highly-skilled staff and high-tech equipment necessary to care for critically ill or injured patients. As the region's Level I Trauma Center, Carle always has a team of doctors, nurses and support staff within five minutes of a patient's arrival to provide critical, lifesaving care for the worst of injuries. In addition to the initial arrival team, Carle has a wide range of medical specialists onsite or available within minutes to treat life and limb threatening injuries. We have a highly skilled in house operating team for any type of emergency and providers specializing in interventional radiology, neurosurgery, oncology and more. This means that regional hospitals can transfer directly to Carle with the confidence that the patient will have resources required.

People in the community and referring hospitals recognize the exceptional care provided at Carle Foundation Hospital and have increasingly selected Carle for their emergency needs including more than 71,300 people in 2013. That is why the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board approved a recent proposal to expand Carle's emergency room to meet the need. However, as the number of people receiving care the Carle emergency department has grown, so has the number of admissions to the hospital. That is why Carle Foundation Hospital needs more med-surg beds to meet demand from those patients who require a higher level of care not available elsewhere within the region.

I urge you to support the proposal to help those patients who need advanced emergent care.

Thank you,

Allen Rinehart, RN
Director, Emergency Department and Clinical Decision Unit



THE CARLE FOUNDATION

611 W. Park Street | Urbana, Illinois 61801



July 30, 2014

Ms. Kathryn Olson
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Support of project 14-015

I am writing in support of Carle Foundation Hospital's request to add Med/Surg beds to maintain the delivery of high quality and innovative cancer care to the people of east central Illinois.

I am a physician leader at the Carle Cancer Center and a cancer surgeon with over 17 years of experience, having joined Carle two years ago. There are no other fellowship trained surgical oncologists any closer than 100 miles to offer the kind of complex cancer operations that we have been able to provide with the patient care space and nursing support currently at Carle. Patients with advanced cancers such as sarcomas, pancreatic cancer, or esophageal cancer are able to have radical but state-of-the-art operations close to home at Carle now. Yes, these surgical procedures require an experienced cancer surgeon and a dedicated OR team, but patients recovering from these major operations also need ICU, Med/Surg step-down and beds where close attention can be paid to the complexity of recovery after cancer surgery.

Cancer patients and their families need to be provided as much information as possible so that they can make the right choice in managing their treatment course. To this end, Carle Cancer Center has dedicated an extensive team of genetics counselors, nutritionists, and therapists that meet with patients in the spacious new rooms of the Carle Tower to offer advice, and management therapies.

When women from all across the region come to the Carle Cancer program with advanced ovarian and uterine cancers, our specialized woman's cancer surgical team can offer them less disfiguring cancer surgery via robotic hysterectomies in large part due to the dedicated care delivered by specialized oncology nurses. To support this particular specialized care, Carle also has a fellowship trained gynecologic surgical oncologist, who joined the practice in 2011.

In addition, Carle Cancer Center and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign collaborate on the kind of innovative care the people of east central Illinois seek out in far flung prestige institutions such as Johns Hopkins. One such project is the direct evaluation of the complete clearance of a patient's breast cancer during surgery with the use of a hand-held probe to 'map out' the landscape of the entire breast. These sorts of collaborative projects would not be possible if Carle Foundation Hospital cannot back up the episode of the cancer surgery with the meticulous perioperative care that we have built.

Just today, I had to perform an emergency abdominal operation on a patient who was back on his feet fully recovered from a massive jaw cancer operation just three months ago. If Carle Foundation Hospital did not have the beds and specialized care available, we would not be able to handle his emergency without the confidence of his family that Carle's therapies allowed him to make such a fantastic recovery as he did previously, and therefore, again after an emergency.

I urge you to approve the added beds at Carle Foundation Hospital so we can provide additional access to this advanced level of care.

Sincerely,

Magesh Sundaram, MD, MBA, FACS
Surgical Oncologist
Carle Cancer Center



THE CARLE FOUNDATION
611 W. Park Street | Urbana, Illinois 61801



July 30, 2014

Ms. Kathryn Olson, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Support of project # 14-015

Dear Ms. Olson,

Patients in east central Illinois and the surrounding region rely upon Carle Foundation Hospital for advanced and lifesaving state-of-the-art heart and vascular care that they cannot get anywhere else in the region. As director of Carle Heart and Vascular Institute, I am writing to explain the critical need for additional beds.

To better serve people in the region who need cardiovascular care we have added services not available at other hospitals in the geographic area. In the past year Carle began providing transcatheter aortic valve replacement or TAVR. In recent months we developed a shared care program with Barnes Jewish Hospital for those who need a left ventricular assist device, or LVAD. Two additional patients received HeartMate percutaneous heart pump (PHP) devices to improve outcomes while having complex coronary interventions. The PHPs were lifesaving measures with one patient in particular having a heart attack, teetering on the edge of cardiogenic shock and heart failure. Just this week, we completed Carle's first transcatheter atrial septal defect closure where the patient received necessary treatment, avoiding open heart surgery. She was hospitalized in a medical surgical bed following the procedure and went home the next day.

Such advances allow patients to receive care close to home without traveling for hours, which is especially important when they are too sick to do so.

To help meet the demand for care in the region, Carle continues to add to its prestigious team of cardiologists and interventional cardiologists. We recently added another cardiothoracic surgeon and we are recruiting for another vascular surgeon.

Advanced treatment provided by these professionals requires a hospital stay where patients receive care from nurses skilled at addressing their specific needs while maintaining rigorous standards of care. This care is initially provided in a critical care bed for a few days and the remainder of the patient's hospitalization is in a general medical surgical bed. The additional specialty care not provided elsewhere in the immediate region requires more patient days in med/surg beds, thus supporting the request for additional beds.

This dedication to clinical advances and to meeting patient's needs is central to Carle's mission. I urge the Board to approve additional beds at Carle Foundation Hospital so that we can continue to help mothers, fathers, children and grandparents who must have this advanced level of care to survive.

Sincerely,

Lynn Ullestad, BSN, MHA, CFRN, NE-BC
Director, Heart and Vascular Institute
Cardiology, CVT Surgery, IR Clinic and Diagnostics



THE CARLE FOUNDATION

611 W. Park Street | Urbana, Illinois 61801



July 30, 2014

Ms. Kathryn Olson
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, Illinois 62761

In support of project 14-015

Ms. Olson:

I am writing to express the critical importance of Carle Foundation Hospital adding beds to provide advanced lifesaving care for patients in central Illinois.

I joined Carle less than two years ago as an Interventional Gastroenterologist. Since then, we started the only tertiary referral center for early diagnosis and staging of gastrointestinal cancer in east central and southern Illinois. This center is able to serve hundreds of patients with pancreatic, gastric and esophageal malignancies from timely diagnosis to surgery and palliation with high quality care. Before establishing this center, patients from east central and southern Illinois used to travel across the state line to St. Louis and Indianapolis. That resulted in significant delay in the management of their serious illness and in many times, loss of the opportunity for early diagnosis and cure.

Since the establishment of this program, patients have been referred to Carle Foundation Hospital from all regional hospitals, family practice physicians and specialty providers. That has resulted in a significant increase in hospital admissions, therapeutic endoscopies and surgeries. The demand for unique quality service has put pressure on general medical/surgical hospital beds, especially since Carle is committed to providing the highest quality care and accepting all patients that require advanced specialty care.

This kind of advanced interventional gastroenterology to diagnose and treat cancer and other conditions is just one new subspecialty available only in this region at Carle. That is why I strongly encourage you to support this important project to add hospital beds so we can help all who need these and other types of highly specialized care.

Sincerely,

Wael Youssef, MD, MBA, FACG, FASGE
Director of Advanced Endoscopy
Digestive Health Center
Carle Foundation Hospital
Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine
University of Illinois. COM C-U

KIRBY MEDICAL CENTER

August 4, 2014

Ms. Kathryn Olson, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Carle Foundation Hospital, Project No. 14-015

Dear Ms. Olson:

I am writing to express my strong support of Carle Foundation Hospital's proposal to add beds at its facility in Urbana, Illinois. By building out the ninth floor of Carle Tower and adding 48 beds, Carle will have improved capacity to serve the region, which includes patients from my practice.

In my internal medicine practice at Kirby Medical Group, I see patients both in the office and at Kirby Medical Center. With my experience in internal medicine and addiction recovery, I can meet the needs of many patients in our community however, as healthcare has become more complex and many patients require advanced treatments, Carle's specialists provide extended continuity of care when they need additional services not available in our small community.

Carle Foundation Hospital provides highly specialized care for the most critically ill patients offering life-saving treatments through Carle's Heart and Vascular Institute, cancer center, digestive health center and in other areas of specialization. My patients receive optimal care at Carle since many have established relationships with specialists and if they must be hospitalized they benefit from this continuity of care. If additional beds are not available at Carle, it is likely that my patients would have to travel further to get the same advanced care, and the coordination would be more difficult with specialists and a hospital outside the region.

For these reasons I urge the Board to approve the proposal by Carle Foundation Hospital so more patients in east central Illinois can have access to high-quality, advanced care they need without having to travel great distances.

Sincerely,



Narain D. Mandhan, M.D.
Internal Medicine
Kirby Medical Group



THE CARLE FOUNDATION
611 W. Park Street | Urbana, Illinois 61801



August 1, 2014

Ms. Kathryn Olson
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, Illinois 62761

In support of Carle Foundation Hospital proposal # 14-015

Ms. Olson:

At Carle Foundation Hospital, we have seen a tremendous need for care from those in our region resulting in higher demand over the past two years. Our professionals including physicians, nurses, technicians and leaders in all areas are working hard to meet the need, but our hospital's census continues to be stretched by an aging population with more chronic conditions requiring complex care only available at Carle in this region. For these reasons it is imperative that the Board approves additional bed capacity at Carle Foundation Hospital.

In the neurosciences units, we see the need every day. As the region's only Primary Stroke Center with 24-7 neuro-interventional coverage, Carle Foundation Hospital is accustomed to caring for those complex neurological cases. In 2013, we moved a portion of Carle's services into a new facility, and while that has improved care and comfort for our patients and their families and allowed us to restructure to serve more patients, there are still many more who require advanced neurological care. Specifically, we have gone from a 15 bed neuro unit with a focus on the stroke patient to a 24 bed unit including med/surg and step-down with a higher acuity. This unit is also responsible for the swallow evaluations for stroke patients throughout the house. During the growth and transition our patient acuity has also increased.

To address patient needs we have added an epileptologist at Carle, and as such three beds are dedicated to an epileptic monitoring unit, or EMU. This has introduced a completely new inpatient service to our community and a new population of inpatients with unique needs.

In addition, we have seen the need to add Critical Care physicians and advanced practice provider staff to care for those in this expanded Critical Care Unit. We care for some pediatric cases in this unit. We have also seen a sharp uptick in violence in the region resulting in an increase in gun shot wound victims who must come directly to Carle to address their critical injuries. These changes necessitate having access for more med/surg beds for the patients to step-down.

While our expert team is up to the task of caring for such advanced cases, the most critical concern is that there are more patients who need this level of care requiring additional beds. On behalf of our patients and our team of healthcare professionals, we ask for your support of the proposal to add beds at Carle Foundation Hospital so we can care for all the people who require this high level treatment.

Sincerely,

Heather Ketchem, MSN, RN
Manager, Neuroscience/Critical Care Unit

Karen White, MD, PhD
Associate Medical Director, Critical Care