



Sumner National Bank of Sheldon

SOME LARGER — FEW OLDER — NONE BETTER

RECEIVED

AUG 06 2014

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

August 5, 2014

Kathryn J. Olson, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Service Review Board
525 W. Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Carle Foundation Hospital, Project 14-015

Dear Ms. Olson:

I am writing to you today in opposition of Carle Foundation Hospital's request for an \$18 million expansion to add 48 medical/surgical beds.

I am on the board of Iroquois Memorial Hospital, and we rely on Presence Covenant Medical Center for much of our specialty care. We also utilize Carle for specialty services and appreciate both hospitals and their services. I feel it is important for each of these hospitals to continue to provide us the options we need, both for specialty care in Urbana and the services that they currently bring to Watseka where our hospital is located. I have concerns about how the proposed Carle expansion could impact the delivery of healthcare throughout the region, for our own hospital as well as for other hospitals in the region, including Presence Covenant Medical Center. It seems to me that if there are 158 excess beds that it would make sense for Carle to look to other existing hospitals, such as Iroquois Memorial Hospital and Presence Covenant, to collaborate on alternative ways to meet the medical/surgical needs of patients.

In Watseka we have already felt the effect of Carle's changed philosophy of directing physicians and patients away from the local hospital and to Carle facilities. When Carle purchased the primary care practice in town and Presence began managing the local hospital, the physicians who had been practicing at the local hospital for years were directed to give up their privileges at our local hospital and send letters to patients indicating they would now be hospitalized at Carle facilities. This is difficult for elderly patients who have to travel long distances for care, and also impacts the local hospital.

We are a rural hospital that utilizes Presence Covenant Medical Center for most of our cardiac transfers, both for surgery and intervention. We utilize Carle for services as well, particularly neurosurgical services. It is very important for our hospital, our community and our region that both continue to thrive. Presence Covenant Medical Center medical staff provides much needed specialty services such as vascular specialists, ENT and other services that are brought directly to our community.

I would like to relate a personal experience which illustrates the importance of maintaining both Presence Covenant and Carle as viable healthcare providers. A short time ago, my husband experienced a detached retina over a very short period of time requiring emergency surgery to correct the situation. Unfortunately the diagnosis was made late on a Friday. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of our optometrist, a retinal surgeon (Dr. Gandhi) was found. However, the only facility that would accommodate this emergency was Presence Covenant Medical Center. Thankfully, Dr. Gandhi and Presence Covenant saved the sight in his affected eye.

Our community needs choices and options in physicians, and in insurance companies, for different philosophies of care. I'm concerned that Carle's proposed expansion may lead to a limitation on what healthcare options our citizens have.

I sincerely do not believe that this proposed expansion project is justified in our region, and I hope you will come to the same conclusion.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia Sumner".

Cynthia Sumner
Board of Trustees, Iroquois Memorial Hospital