

37 Lakeview Drive
Belleville, IL 62223
October 7, 2014

RECEIVED

OCT 16 2014

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Ms. Courtney Avery – Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761
RE: Project Application #14-043

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am sending this letter in regards to my concern as a citizen of the Belleville community. Belleville Memorial and St. Elizabeth's hospital are great hospitals that serve the community and surrounding areas, in the Metro East.

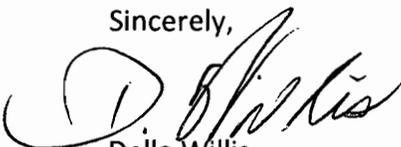
I feel that we do not need to hospitals serving in the same area in Shiloh, IL. If, St. Elizabeth's hospital is granted the permission to leave the Belleville area it would be drastic to have only one hospital in the immediate Belleville area. It would cause some residents to drive further away, and cause much strain on Memorial hospital.

While both are serving in the city of Belleville, we have one on the West end and the other on the East in/downtown area. St. Elizabeth's leaving the downtown area, would be drastic on the downtown community and retailers.

St. Elizabeth's has property across the street, why couldn't they use that to start building a new hospital. Or close sections of the hospitals at a time and do updates and renovations.

Please, let's consider the residents in this community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Della Willis

October 10, 2014

Mr. Mike Constantino
Supervisor, Project Review Section
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Mr. Constantino,

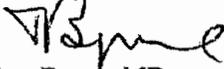
I am writing to express my opposition to Project # 14-043, St. Elizabeth's Hospital, O'Fallon.

I am an emergency medicine physician and have worked in the Belleville community for many years. In addition, for 13 years I served as the Medical Director of the Southwestern Illinois EMS System which includes St. Clair County and surrounding counties. In my former role as EMS Medical Director I have seen the regional EMS volumes and have a good understanding of the negative impact that St. Elizabeth's proposed closure and relocation will have on ED access for residents of Belleville and neighboring communities, particularly for the most critically ill or injured patients that are transported by ambulance to the closest hospital.

In addition to ED access to care, the loss of critical care beds is another significant concern. The proposed relocating of St. Elizabeth's Hospital from downtown Belleville to O'Fallon will result in the transporting of patients who will need inpatient care to Memorial Belleville that are now transported to St. Elizabeth's. Memorial Hospital in Belleville will be reducing its bed capacity by about one third with the opening of Memorial East in Shiloh/O'Fallon and these patients, brought by EMS personnel, will tax Memorial's ED, ICU and support services.

St. Elizabeth's closure in Belleville raises significant concerns and I urge you to reject the application.

Sincerely,


Tom Byrne, MD

Cc: Courtney Avery

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator

RE: Project Application #14-043

Ms. Avery

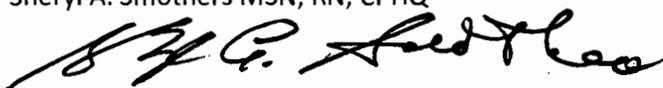
I am a Registered Nurse who has been employed in the Belleville, Illinois area for over 40 years, working at both St. Elizabeth's and Memorial Hospital. As a concerned professional working in this community I am extremely concerned about St. Elizabeth's proposed move of their acute care facility away from both the citizens of Belleville and those outlying communities served by St. Elizabeth's. If St. Elizabeth's is allowed to abandon a community they have served for so many years it would devastate not only those citizens but the remaining healthcare facility in the area.

As I understand the Memorial Hospital recently approved construction of Memorial East that plan allows for continuing service of citizens in the Belleville and surrounding area without increasing the bed capacity. In other words, Memorial is to become a two-hospital service with private room accommodations for patients at both locations. With the increasing need to provide stringent infection prevention measures the move to those private rooms are critical to that process. Should St. Elizabeth's be allowed to leave this service area for inpatient activity Memorial would be overwhelmed by the additional patient traffic through the emergency department not to mention the need to admit inpatients to a hospital that is decreasing their inpatient admit ability at the city location.

I strongly urge that the CON be denied and that St. Elizabeth's be encouraged to expend their resources to improve their acute care hospital currently serving the Belleville community and beyond. St. Elizabeth's was built with a mission to serve the residents of Belleville and the surrounding communities. Memorial was built when it was determined that a growing population required the care and support of an additional community hospital. That need remains in our community and will only increase as healthcare becomes more complicated.

Sincerely,

Sheryl A. Smothers MSN, RN, CPHQ



Cc: Mike Constantino
Supervisor, Project Review Section

Courtney Avery
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Board
525 W. Jefferson St., 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Ms. Avery

RE: Project # 14-043

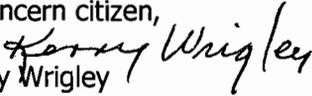
I am in opposition to the St. Elizabeth's hospital move from Belleville. I think there has not been an in-depth evaluation of how the hospital move will affect the EMS system responding to emergency calls in the Southwest Illinois area and transporting to the O'Fallon site amidst the heavily trafficked intersection area of Greenmount Road and Frank-Scott Parkway. That is a very heavy shopping district and takes half an hour just to navigate through the traffic.

I feel that the Emergency Room at Memorial Hospital will be overloaded. Memorial currently provides care for approximately 65,000 patients a year with a 24 bed ED facility. St. Elizabeth's has approximately 35,000 Emergency Room visits a year. With a serious reduction in access for Emergency care in the Belleville area, this may cause catastrophic delay in care and treatment to patient's that have serious conditions in which time is of the essence for immediate treatment such as Acute MI or Stroke, or worse a horrific motor vehicle accident.

My mother-in-law is a long time patient of St. Elizabeth's and lives in a township South of Belleville on Hwy 159. Her physician is only on the medical staff at St. Elizabeth's. She is already fearful of what will happen in an emergency to her and her neighbors if St. Elizabeth's moves.

Belleville and surrounding communities is a large population that cannot be served by Memorial alone. We need two hospitals and two emergency rooms in Belleville to accommodate the healthcare of the community, schools, businesses and law enforcement. Memorial will be reducing the number of beds at its present location in Belleville to less than 200 beds once their full service hospital opens in April 2016. I believe a community with over 200,000 population needs emergent access to healthcare as a high standard of living requirement in our community.

A concern citizen,


Kerry Wrigley
1 Dale Crest Manor
Swansea, IL 62226

(re: Project # 14-043)

1021 West "E" Street

St. Paul's Home

Belleville, Illinois 62220

Mr. Mike Constantino

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

Second Floor

525 West Jefferson Street

Springfield, Illinois 62761

Dear Mr. Constantino and Members of the Review Board:

I love St. Elizabeth Hospital in Belleville. Especially when I realize the unthinkable, that it is threatened.

I was born in that hospital, my mother was born there in 1928, and my four siblings were born there. My father died there, and I hope to die there. God, through Dr. Dothager, saved my life there by bringing me out of a coma I had fallen in to following a surgery. On that occasion and others that I have been a patient at St. Elizabeth's, I have found the doctors, nurses and aides, the housekeepers and food service personnel friendly, caring and competent. On still other occasions, as when I have been at the hospital for blood tests, I have been struck by how clean the hospital is; the hallways and entrance hall floors literally sparkle. These floors are made of terraza, made to last as long as there is life on Earth. The hallways and rooms are spacious, so that one does not feel crowded or confined. *One cannot afford to duplicate, in new construction, such spaciousness and comfortableness.*

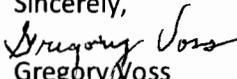
A dear friend's wife has been a most dedicated nurse at St. Elizabeth's for nearly forty years. She is truly an exemplar of the virtues of the woman after whom the hospital is named. In the entrance lobby of the hospital are several images of St. Elizabeth of Hungary standing in a doorway, giving food to people who needed it. Her mission was the caring vision that the Hospital Sisters brought to this part of America in the later decades of the nineteenth century. It would not seem in the nature of Elizabeth or the Sisters to seek more prosperous surroundings.

I fear that, if the hospital were moved, there would be a great void, physically and economically, in the heart of Belleville. The fine building itself cannot be anything but a hospital, and should not have to. The city of East St. Louis was once home to two hospitals. What terrible blows to that city when each of them closed. The vibrant activity and life that such an institution brings are irreplaceable. The city to

Rev. 6/8/99

which the administration of St. Elizabeth's proposes to move the hospital has been flourishing in recent decades. Now that Memorial Hospital has begun construction there, it seems open to question whether O'Fallon will need a second hospital. The removal of St. Elizabeth's, though, would be catastrophic for Belleville.

What would become of the impressive new Heart Institute Building, whose doctors have won national commendation? What of the quite new emergency room wing that serves so many people so well? The doctors' office buildings on Lincoln Street and on Third Street—would they continue to be occupied if the hospital were to be moved? The hospital's sturdy parking garage would be largely wasted if the hospital were to be largely vacant. What would become of the beautiful chapel? This wonderful assembly of buildings was constructed over generations to serve for the ages, and it is unconscionable to think of squandering this great resource.

Sincerely,

Gregory Joss

Re: Project # 14-043 St. Elizabeth's
Hospital O'Fallon
and

Project # 14-044 St. Elizabeth
Ambulatory Care
Center, O'Fallon

In regard to St. Elizabeth's Hospital, we
think St. Elizabeth's needs to stay in Belleville
and serve the surrounding communities and
the people of Belleville.

We already have Memorial Hospital being
built in O'Fallon and we also have Anderson
Hospital in Mossville nearby.

St. Elizabeths would be doing a dis-service
to Belleville, Ill. and the surrounding
communities.

Frank & Theresia Kuce
108 Eastern Ave
O'Fallon, Ill. 62269