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December 23, 2014

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Via Federal Express  
Via E-Mail

**RECEIVED**

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Ms. Courtney Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review  
Board  
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor  
Springfield, Illinois 62761

**Re: Stony Creek Dialysis – Request for Expedited Review**

Dear Ms. Avery:

On behalf of DaVita HealthCare Partners Inc. and Renal Life Link, Inc. (collectively “DaVita”), we respectfully request the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board (“State Board”) grant expedited review of the above-referenced Stony Creek application for certificate of need permit (the “CON Application”) and consider the CON Application at the January 27, 2015 State Board meeting. This project proposes to relocate Stony Creek Dialysis. It is critical the CON Application be heard at the January 27, 2015 meeting as the lease for the existing facility terminates in the first quarter of 2016. If the CON Application is approved, DaVita would hope the replacement facility would be operational by the end of the first quarter of 2016.

In filing the CON Application, DaVita seeks authority from the State Board to relocate its existing 12 station dialysis facility. This project was previously approved by the State Board as Project Permit No. 12-024 at the August 27, 2014 meeting. Due to denial of the DaVita’s petition for a zoning variance from the Village of Oak Lawn, DaVita had to abandon the initial site for the replacement facility. DaVita promptly identified a new site for the project at 6236-6246 West 95<sup>th</sup> Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois and confirmed with the landlord the new site requires no additional zoning variances.

Stony Creek Dialysis has operated above the State Board’s 80% utilization standard for the past six years. DaVita seeks to relocate the existing 12 stations to a new modern facility to address the physical plant issues at the existing facility and to allow for future expansion as the



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need warrants. Importantly, no stations will be added to the planning area. The physical plant issues identified in the initial application still remain. As noted in the CON Application, the existing facility is suboptimal for patients and staff. Multiple physical plant upgrades are needed to the plumbing, HVAC, and flooring. The design and size of the existing facility creates operational and logistical inefficiencies. The nursing station is too small to adequately prep medications. The water treatment room is outdated and in need of a complete overhaul. The space is inadequate to store medical supplies, office supplies, and biohazard waste. The mechanical room and the computer/server room for all of the neighboring medical businesses are housed inside the existing facility. The only access to the server/computer room is through the treatment floor, creating potential infection control and privacy concerns. Additionally, the patient treatment floor configuration prohibits the viewing of all patients from the nursing station, resulting in an overall concern for patient safety based on inadequate sight-lines. Finally, there are only two handicapped parking spaces in the parking lot, which are frequently unavailable, and the parking lot configuration prohibits larger patient transport vehicles from dropping patients off and picking them up at the entrance to the dialysis unit. As DaVita does not own the building housing the existing facility, it determined it would be in the best interest of its patients to relocate to a modern facility.

It is critical the CON Application be heard at the January 27, 2015 State Board meeting as the lease for the existing facility terminates in the first quarter of 2016. Importantly, the initial application had no negative findings and no opposition. With the exception of the new site, there have been no substantive changes to the CON Application since the initial application was filed on June 5, 2014. Therefore, we anticipate the CON Application would likewise have no negative findings or opposition.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our request for expedited review of the Stony Creek Dialysis CON Application. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne M. Cooper".

Anne M. Cooper