OSF
ST. JOSEPH MEDICAL CENTER

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MAR 26 2015
HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

March 20, 2015

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

RE: Support for Bloomington-Normal Birthing Center, LLC
Application #15-006

Dear Members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board,

I am writing in support of the application from Bloomington-Normal Birthing Center, LLC to bring a birthing center to Bloomington-Normal.

From the outset of this project, Dr. Joe Santiago and Dr. Dele Ogunleye, the owners of Bloomington-Normal Birthing Center, LLC, have done their homework to research the viability of introducing a high quality, cost effective birthing center to our community.

OSF St. Joseph Medical Center is very impressed with the owners' due diligence and has entered into a contractual transfer agreement with them to accept birthing center patients needing a higher level of care. I have had numerous conversations with representatives of Bloomington-Normal Birthing Center, LLC throughout the planning phase of this project. I feel very confident in their market analysis and projections for the success of a birthing center in our region.

I urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve the application for Bloomington-Normal Birthing Center. A birthing center in this community will add a much needed alternative for low risk maternity care for the Central Illinois region. Furthermore, with the vision and dedication of owners Dr. Santiago and Dr. Ogunleye it is sure to be a success.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any other assistance in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

John R Zell

John R Zell

Vice President, Chief Financial Officer
OSF St. Joseph Medical Center

McLean County
Health Department
Partners in Prevention

McLean County Health Department
200 West Front Street, Room 304
Bloomington, IL 61701

March 23, 2015

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Application #15-006 Bloomington-Normal Birthing Center

Dear Members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board,

On behalf of the McLean County Health Department, it is my pleasure to write a letter of support of the application from Bloomington-Normal Birthing Center, LLC to bring a birthing center to Bloomington-Normal. This center will offer a new service not otherwise offered in McLean County or anywhere in downstate at this time.

The Department and local obstetricians have a long history of partnering to serve families in McLean County. Through the Family Case Management program, income qualifying pregnant women are referred to a medical provider to begin timely prenatal care. Primary goals of the Family Case Management program are to improve birth outcomes and to decrease premature and low weight births. Achieving these goals will also equal a reduction in Medicaid costs associated with high risk pregnancies and deliveries. Having the Bloomington Normal Birthing Center in our community will give women with low risk pregnancies a less invasive, lower cost option for their birth experiences, which, in turn, will also lower Medicaid costs significantly.

The Birthing Center consultants were gracious to include our Department in its outreach conducted last fall, when they gave a presentation to our Maternal Child Health staff. The Birthing Center consultants demonstrated willingness to collaborate with our Department to better meet the needs of women in our community. The Birthing Center can offer women in need of prenatal care a lower cost, high value, wellness oriented option like no other that exists in Central Illinois.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter of support. I urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve the application for Bloomington-Normal Birthing Center.

Sincerely,

Walter P. Howe
Director
McLean County Health Department