Axel & Associates, Inc.

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

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SEP 14 2015

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

September 11, 2015

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

RE: MercyRockford Health System
Projects 15-038, 15-039, and 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

Please post the enclosed letter as a letter of support for the three above-referenced projects.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jacob M. Axel
President

enclosure

675 North Court, Suite 210
Palatine, Illinois 60067

Phone (847) 776-7101
Fax (847) 776-7004

Rochelle
Community Hospital
900 N. Second Street • Rochelle, IL 61068
Ph. (815) 562-2181 • Fax. (815) 561-3120

August 21, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
525 West Jefferson
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

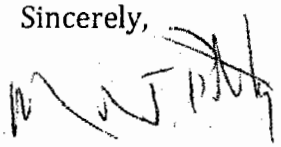
This letter is submitted in support of the three Certificate of Need applications that have been filed by MercyRockford Health System.

I am the Chief Executive Officer of Rochelle Community Hospital, located in Rochelle, Illinois, about 30 miles south of Rockford. RCH has a long-standing relationship with Rockford Memorial Hospital which has helped to insure access to high quality tertiary care for the communities our hospital serves.

Of critical importance to our hospital and community are the regional pediatric and pediatric intensive care services provided by Rockford Memorial Hospital. Also key are the related neonatal and high risk obstetrical services provided by Rockford Memorial that insure access to Rochelle area residents. The planned relocation of these services to MercyRockford's Riverside campus, will improve convenience for patients and their families from the Rochelle area. Given that nearly two-thirds of Illinois Medicaid recipients are children, we believe that this improved access will materially and significantly benefit children who rely on Medicaid for their health care.

MercyRockford's plan for one hospital on two campuses will improve access to health care services for the residents of the communities surrounding Rockford. Rochelle Community Hospital enthusiastically supports these important applications.

Sincerely,



Mark J. Batty
Chief Executive Officer
Rochelle Community Hospital

Axel & Associates, Inc.

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

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SEP 1 4 2015

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

September 10, 2015

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

RE: MercyRockford Health System
Projects 15-038, 15-039, and 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

Please post the enclosed letters as a letter of support for the three above-referenced projects.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jacob M. Axel
President

enclosure

675 North Court, Suite 210
Palatine, Illinois 60067

Phone (847) 776-7101
Fax (847) 776-7004

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www.atsambulance.com
PRIORITY ONE

September 8, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

This letter is submitted in support of MercyRockford Health System's three applications.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Andy Schultz CEO/Founder of ATS Medical Services, Inc. We are a private ambulance provider located in Loves Park, IL. Our company also provides paramedic staffing for several Fire Protection Districts in the Northern Illinois area. I have been working in EMS as an EMT/Paramedic in the state of Illinois for the past 28 years. I started ATS in 2005 with the vision of improving the pre-hospital services for the community. I feel anyone associated with healthcare has an obligation to provide the service that is in the best interest of the community and patient. With that being said I want to show my support for the approval of the new MercyRockford Hospital campus on E Riverside Blvd.

I can't express the excitement I have towards this huge project. This is the type of growth this community has needed for years. Just image the amount of jobs this will generate, as well as the thought of Rockford actually having a "State of the Art" destination hospital. If you think about it, the 3 current hospitals in the City of Rockford are all rather old, and quite land locked. I think the best part of this project is the ability for Rockford to not only have this brand new state of the art facility, but the forward thinking of MercyRockford to continue the operations and renovation of the original RMH campus. This will allow the west side communities to still have an outstanding hospital that meets their needs.

I feel it's important to mention that frequently the 3 hospitals in Rockford have very busy emergency departments and when transporting an ambulance patient to them, you may have to wait in the hallway with this patient on your stretcher till a room becomes available. This may be 30 minutes sometimes. This only keeps that ambulance out of service even longer, leaving their community uncovered for medical response. These additional ED beds are an over needed asset to this community.

Several of the Northern Illinois community ambulance services would have a shorter transport time to this new Emergency Department, allowing them to return to service and the needs of their community much sooner.

6419 Material Ave., Loves Park, IL 61111
Ph 815.963.6885 Fax 815.639.9521
Dispatch
815.963.5001
6050 Churchman Bypass, Indianapolis, IN 46203
Ph 317.542.1111 Fax 815.639.9521

I couldn't imagine a better location, directly off Interstate 90. This alone should shorten the transport times significantly, allowing the patient to reach definitive care in a shorter time.

I appreciate the opportunity to voice my excitement regarding this brand new facility, which will only make Rockford and Winnebago County a better place to live.

Sincerely,

Andrew T. Schultz, CCEMTP, NREMTP

CEO/Owner ATS Medical Services, Inc.

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Craig Fetty
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(815) 233-1128 Phone
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Winnebago County
202 Market Street
Rockford, IL 61107
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(815) 968-7612 Fax

www.rampcil.org
facebook.com/RAMPcil

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August 27, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and
Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

This letter is submitted in support of MercyRockford Health System's three applications.

I am the Executive Director of RAMP, a regional Center for Independent Living that empowers individuals with disabilities (all disabilities, all ages) through services and advocacy to live an independent life. This is accomplished by partnering with them to make changes in their own lives, seek peer support and remove barriers.

RAMP was established in 1980 and has grown from serving just the city of Rockford to serving four counties in Northern Illinois and over 1,000 individuals annually. Our programs reach individuals with traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, sensory deficits, mental illness, cognitive delays and more. As a result, many of our consumers are active recipients of health care services in the region. Rockford Health System has always been the cornerstone of those services. From their Spine Center to the VanMatre HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital to all of their palliative care, RHS has long been a source of support and intense need for individuals with disabilities in Northern Illinois.

RAMP and the Visiting Nurses Association (VNA, a strong part of RHS) created a pilot program for the State of Illinois that is providing services needed to keep individuals from ever entering institutional settings, specifically nursing homes. Through a federal initiative called the Balancing Incentive Program (BIP), participating states are changing their support from institutional care to community-based services and supports. This shift provides more welcomed, effective care in the community for individuals able to remain in their homes while decreasing the costs which results in a winning solution all the way around. This pilot has allowed RAMP and VNA to concentrate on how to bridge the gap in services between elderly and disability funding sources and it has allowed for flexible and creative case management that allows for successful outcomes for the community. This type of collaboration is typical of what RHS brings to our region!

EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES THROUGH SERVICES AND ADVOCACY

RAMP
no limits

RAMP is strongly supportive of initiatives, like the MercyRockford projects, that will help insure access to care for the residents of our community. In particular, we are always concerned about those residents who rely on the care provided on Rockford Memorial Hospitals existing campus. Many of these residents rely on Medicaid to support their care and the elimination of necessary services at the Rockton Avenue campus could result in a diminishment of those services. We are grateful that MercyRockford's new plan insures the continued vitality of the Rockton Avenue campus and specifically emergency services and inpatient care.

Thank you for your consideration of our support.

Sincerely,

Julie Bosma

Julie Bosma, MPA
Executive Director