ROCKFORD SPINE CENTER

2902 MCFARLAND ROAD • ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61107 • PHONE 815/316-2100 • FAX 815/316-2099 • rockfordspine.com

October 21, 2015

RECEIVED

OCT 26 2015

HEALTH FACILITIES & SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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 an orthopedic spine surgeon who started the Rockford Spine Center. We are a regional referral area for university level reconstructive spine surgery. In our facility we have seven physicians, a nurse practitioner and three physician assistants who are all clinicians who provide care in regards to spine evaluation, treatment and pain management procedures, as well as spinal surgical procedures at the hospitals. Amongst all our care providers we see approximately 4000 patient visits per year and perform close to 1000 surgeries per year. Our referral base is from Wisconsin, Iowa, and Norther Illinois including Chicago and Madison areas and as far south as Peoria.

The physicians of Rockford Spine Center are recognized nationally and internationally as experts in spinal reconstructive surgery and as a group we have published multiple research and scientific articles and provide university level services to the Northern Illinois community.

I am strongly supportive of MercyRockford's applications that have been filed with your agency. I think it would be critical to develop a modern treatment facility here in Rockford that is close to the interstate to allow greater access for the large volume of regional referrals that we currently receive. The most complex surgical procedures are preferentially performed currently at MercyRockford Health Systems; however, the campus is aging, in great need of updating, and to a certain extent the facilities are beyond updating and need replacement. To the extent that a new location would be a great benefit for regional referrals as well as building of the new facility to allow updated operating theaters and other supportive services to continue supporting the regional several state area that we currently serve.

Further, I believe the MercyRockford Health Systems sustaining a clinic on the west side of Rockford will continue to serve the residents of the west side of Rockford; however, a new facility at the proposed location of Riverside and Interstate 90 would not only benefit providing care to

MICHAEL S. ROH, M.D. CHRISTOPHER D. SLIVA, M.D. FRED A. SWEET, M.D. MARIE A. WALKER, M.D.

the eastern side of Rockford, but also significantly improves the accessibility for our volume of regional referrals and as such would have a significantly positive financial impact on Rockford as a whole as well as the Northern Illinois region in regards to construction, support services, hospital personnel, and development of those same services. Additionally, improving our regional services will allow us to not only continue serving patients who are in need of these advanced services here in the Rockford area and preventing an outflow to areas such as Madison, Wisconsin, but also increase the influx of patients from out-of-state area as well as the Northern Illinois regional area to the Rockford area.

I would like to point out that moving services to the proposed location is a relatively short distance and should not affect access for anybody here in the Rockford area to any appreciable degree but has the added benefit of improving regional access. At a time when economic conditions in Illinois are becoming critical with businesses leaving the state, I think the proposal for Mercy/Rockford Health Systems construction of a new hospital facility is a step in the right direction at keeping jobs in Northern Illinois as well as business and promoting further growth in the health industry and as a whole is a definite positive for Illinois as a state and definitely for Rockford in the region.

If you have any other questions in regards to this proposal or the Rockford Spine Center's support of building a new facility, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Fred A. Sweet, M.D.
President, Rockford Spine Center
Assistant Clinical Professor of Surgery, University of Illinois Rockford Campus

Axel & Associates, Inc.

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

RECEIVED

OCT 26 2015

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

October 22, 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 12 letters as letters 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

We're Here For You!
Boone County Council on Aging
2141 Henry Luckow Lane
Belvidere, IL 61008
815-544-9893
www.keenage.org

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.

My name is Joe Fortmann, Executive Director, Boone County Council on Aging.

I am strongly supportive of MercyRockford's applications that have been filed with your agency. The necessary development of the Rockton Avenue campus and the Riverside campus will strengthen access to care for our community and the region. You may understand that the aging population is increasing. Indeed, I am a boomer, myself. From the U.S. Census of 2000, to the Census of 2010 the number of individuals over the age of 60 residing in Boone County increased by nearly 20%. A significant number in and of itself. More to the point,that number continues to increase. That means a greater number of mature persons requiring medical care.

To that end, MercyRockford Health System has entered into an understanding with the Boone County Council on Aging, providing much needed education about the local, major causes of death.

I am pleased that this plan proposes the introduction of modern facilities designed to accommodate state-of-the-art technologies. I know that keeping pace with medical technological advances is essential to stop out-migration for healthcare services. Rockford Memorial's neonatal, high-risk maternity, and pediatric intensive care services are essential – not only to Rockford – but to all of northwestern Illinois.

At a time in which many organizations and businesses are choosing to exit Illinois or postpone investments in our State, I am heartened that MercyRockford has chosen to "put their money where their mouth is" and invest in Rockford and Illinois.

Most Sincerely,

Joe Fortmann, Executive Director

ROCKFORD BANK & TRUST

Member FDIC

www.rkfdbank.com

Wealth Management

October 16, 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:

I am submitting this letter in support of the MercyRockford Health system's three applications.

I am 55 years old and a lifetime resident of Rockford and very committed to the growth that this plan represents.

I grew up on the West side and within walking distance to the hospital. I utilized the emergency services for my very active son and can appreciate the need for a Hospital on the West side of town. In the MercyRockford plan, they will not be abandoning the West Side emergency services, convenient care services and impatient services for those who will need it.

The plan will provide state-of-the-art technologies for neonatal, high-risk maternity and pediatric intensive care for all of northwestern Illinois. I am a grandmother of premature twins and I understand the need for privacy and technology when dealing with the possibility that they would not make it. Fortunately our girls made it and the quiet private surroundings they received at a hospital in the Chicago area was extremely beneficial. All Rockford area families deserve the privacy and technology that the new facility will bring with easy access to hotels and restaurants. Most premature babies require lengthy stays and this will allow the families convenient options.

I appreciate the commitment that MercyRockford is making to invest in Rockford and Illinois and sincerely hope that MercyRockford will not be prevented from the ability to expand.

We do not need one more company or organization to find new homes outside of Rockford or Illinois.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mary A. Pohl

Mary A. Pohl
Vice President and
Private Banking Officer

4571 Guilford Road, Rockford, Illinois 61107 • Phone: 815.489.2114

October 8, 2015

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

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing in support of MercyRockford Health System plan to develop one hospital on two campuses.

I have been a volunteer at Rockford Memorial Hospital for 56 years and know first-hand that Rockford Memorial Hospital provides OUTSTANDING care, and deserves to be regionally accessible with modern facilities for the future.

We have many people in our community who support this and know how wonderful it would be not only for Rockford – but the entire northwest Illinois region, and southern Wisconsin.

Other hospitals in the state that have been faced with aging facilities, have moved their entire facilities to a new location. I think it's very impressive and commendable that MercyRockford has developed this plan that keeps not only basic services, but hospital care, a full Emergency Department and specialty care on the North Rockton Avenue campus.

Respectfully,

Wilma Tracy

Wilma Tracy
3723 Brookview Road
Rockford, IL 61107

October 1, 2015

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

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

I have spent the last fifty years at Rockford Memorial Hospital. First as a nursing student, then as an obstetrical nurse and, after retirement, as a volunteer. I also serve at the chair of Rockford Memorial Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Board.

Four generations of my family have experienced care at Rockford Memorial Hospital for over 75 years and I expect it to continue for many more years. The care is outstanding, but the building cannot handle all the new and required technology needed for all the special procedures now expected in a hospital. To bring the older part of the hospital up to code would cost almost $200 million dollars more than building a new one, and the core of the hospital would still be a 60 year-old facility.

The newer D and E wings will house the inpatients and all other services will continue to be offered at the Rockton Avenue campus. Rockford Memorial Hospital cares for the second highest number of Medicaid patients in Illinois and needs the income from the second campus to continue operations.

The new campus will allow for the much-needed expansion of units and the ability to reach a larger number of people who need our special services without having to go in the Chicago or Madison areas.

I fully support MercyRockford Health System development plan.

Sincerely,

Wanda Kloster, RN

Wanda Kloster, R.N.,A.A.,PRN
12505 Fish Hatchery Road
Pecatonica, IL 61063

October 6, 2015

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

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing in support of MercyRockford Health System plan to develop one hospital on two campuses.

I live and volunteer on the west side of Rockford and hope that Rockford Memorial Hospital continues to serve the community by having two campuses with exemplary care – one on the west side and one on the east side. This will truly be beneficial to everyone in our community and surrounding communities.

There are so many people who are very excited about MercyRockford's plans. I would say the vast majority of our community is supportive. It would make a huge economic impact in our community, not only for people accessing excellent healthcare, but also because of the $400 million dollars it will take to build the new campus – our community needs this economic boost!

I respectfully ask that you and the board support MercyRockford Health System plans and help our community.

Sincerely, Virginia Smalley

Virginia Smalley
48 Briar Lane
Rockford, IL 61103

October 5, 2015

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

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

I came to Rockford forty-four years ago with my family, lived on the west side of Rockford most of my life, and have worked on the west side of Rockford all of my life. Many of my family members still live on the west side. Rockford Memorial Hospital has been a fixture in our west side community. My family and I have had a long relationship with Rockford Memorial Hospital and its physicians. They have provided us with excellent, compassionate care.

I am so excited for MercyRockford Health System's plan for one hospital on two campuses. This is so great for Rockford! Not only because of the economic impact building a new campus brings to our community by providing additional jobs, but also because of the impact a new modern facility will bring in providing an outstanding level of healthcare to our entire region.

I think the leadership of MercyRockford Health System should be applauded for working at keeping a full service hospital as well as clinics on the west side of Rockford, whereas the other two local health systems don't have any facilities on the west side. I believe this is a great plan that will provide two access points for patient care.

I respectfully request your support for MercyRockford Health System's plan.

Sincerely,

Rosalie England

Rosalie England
4538 Galleon Drive
Loves Park, IL 61111

October 6, 2015

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

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am a life-long resident of Rockford, Illinois, a graduate of the public schools, a college graduate, and a former president of the Rockford Hospital Auxiliary. I was an elementary school teacher for 30 years, served on several community boards and have lived on the west side of Rockford my entire life. However, I enthusiastically support the proposed development of a new campus on E. Riverside and I-90.

While still maintaining the hospital on Rockton Avenue and its services, providing a newer facility will increase the ability to expand care in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and provide more high risk maternity care. Two campus hospitals will allow exceptional care to be given to all the diverse populations of the city and the surrounding area.

Sincerely,
Jean W. Reese
Jean W. Reese
2123 Oxford Street
Rockford, Illinois 61103

October 2, 2015

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

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

Dear Ms. Avery,

Rockford Memorial gives great care! I know. I have been a patient there. Let's face it though, the building is 60 years old. The more modern areas have been beautifully renovated and can continue to be used. The old areas aren't as suitable for renovation. In fact those units were built so many decades ago that it's difficult to accommodate people with disabilities – you can't maneuver a wheelchair into the room. It just doesn't make sense for them to sink millions of dollars into renovating such an old facility.

I have always used Rockford Memorial Hospital for as long as I have lived in Rockford. I have always been proud of the service I have received. They have the very best doctors in town and the staff is very pleasant and helpful.

I truly support the new Specialty Hospital for all who need it. If you need special help you should get the most modern equipment and doctors. Kudos to the leadership team who are trying to keep a hospital on the west side of town. You don't see the other hospitals in town bringing their clinics or hospital to the west side.

Our health is our future and I completely support MercyRockford Health System in their development plans and hope that you will as well.

Sincerely,

Florence Bobert

Florence Bobert
624 James Avenue
Rockford, IL 61107

4711 Burningtree Dr
Rockford, IL 61114

October 5, 2015

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

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

Dear Ms. Avery,

I have been a volunteer for the RMH system for the last 15 years and have seen monthly the results of excellent healthcare services residents of this area have received from the RMH system. I am privileged to express my support for the new MercyRockford Health System plan. I am especially excited that the new facility will be in a location which will be much easier for me to access.

I am particularly pleased that the new MercyRockford plan will continue full medical coverage at their Rockton Avenue location. The hospital is to be highly commended as the only healthcare facility in the area totally committed to the residents of west Rockford.

The new MercyRockford plan is the most exciting economic news to hit the northern Illinois area in decades. This economic uplift comes at a critical time for the area and will increase patient volumes and services. This new facility will dramatically improve healthcare for the residents in the entire northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin area.

I humbly request your support for the planned new MercyRockford Hospital.

Thank you kindly,

David Miller

David A. Miller

October 1, 2015

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

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

As a longtime volunteer at Rockford Memorial Hospital and an Auxiliary Board Member, I am excited about the plan for one hospital – two campuses. Rockford Memorial Hospital provides an outstanding level of care and deserves modern facilities that match that level of care.

This project represents a leap forward in community economic growth and the potential for Rockford to become a center for specialized health services. It's an exciting time for the Rockford area.

I completely support MercyRockford Health System's plan and hope you will as well.

Sincerely, Cheryl Balsam

Cheryl Balsam
9762 Fantail Place
Roscoe, Illinois
815-623-7151

October 7, 2015

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

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

I am writing to express my strong support for MercyRockford Health System's plan for one hospital – two campuses.

I grew up within eight blocks of the Rockton Avenue campus and it has always been the hospital of choice for my family. Rockford Memorial Hospital provides an excellent level of care and merits modern facilities that would match their services. The care that Rockford Memorial Hospital provides should be more regionally accessible.

Who else has created a Wisconsin-Illinois partnership and then proposed to invest $400 million in facilities on the Illinois side of the border – in Rockford, no less! What other corporate headquarters has moved to Rockford? We need to get behind MercyRockford's plans, because it is not only great for all patients of our community and regional communities, but it is also a great economic boost for Rockford!

I respectfully request your support for MercyRockford Health System's plans.

Thank you kindly,

Jean Kramer

Jean Kramer
1219 Roxbury Close
Rockford, IL 61107

October 1, 2015

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

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

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Sandra Scott and I began my medical transcription career at Rockford Memorial Hospital 35 years ago. At that time, I was fortunate to be trained on-the-job at the hospital. I also floated, as a secretary, in various departments of the hospital: Administration, Human Resources, Public Relations, and I spent the majority of my time in Cardiac Function. When I retired, I was thrilled to obtain a volunteer position at the hospital, and for the past eight years I have been a Cuddler in the Newborn Intensive Care Unit. I hope to continue this volunteer job as long as I am able to rock and cuddle babies in need! I love it!

I am happy to know that plans are in the works for another Rockford Memorial Hospital on the east side of Rockford. I would love to see Rockford become a destination point for the best healthcare in the nation, similar to Mayo Clinic. Building a new hospital will help draw people, from near and far, to our vibrant community. I am excited that this new facility will include expanded services and state-of-the-art technology, also that my department, the Newborn Intensive Care Unit, will be regionally accessible to so many babies requiring such specific care.

I recently moved my 91-year-old mother-in-law to Rockford from Naples, Florida. She is amazed at the professionalism of healthcare workers, their knowledge and the quality of care that she is receiving here in Rockford. I know that the new hospital, on the east side of Rockford, will provide its patients with the same outstanding level of care and respect as the Rockton Avenue hospital is already doing, and also provide its patients with modern facilities designed for the future of medicine!

Sincerely,

Sandra Scott

Sandra Scott
7728 Kinnikinnick Drive
Roscoe, Illinois 6107

RMH PATHOLOGISTS LTD

RMH Pathologists, Ltd.
2400 North Rockton Avenue
Rockford, IL 61103

RECEIVED
OCT 26 2015
HEALTH FACILITIES & SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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. Our private practice pathology group, currently consisting of four physicians, has served patients of Rockford Health System and northern Illinois for over 40 years.

We strongly support the initiatives of MercyRockford Health System including its three certificates of need applications that will allow for sustained and improved care on the Rockton Avenue Campus with enhancement and development of services on a new Riverside Campus. The new entity, formed by the merger of Mercy Health System and Rockford Health System, is focusing its growth strategy in Illinois, allowing for improved access to specialty care for all of patients in northern Illinois and stopping outmigration of patients to Wisconsin. This strategy strengthens our capabilities of providing efficient, high-quality services locally.

We are acutely aware of the facility and economic challenges on the Rockton Avenue Campus. These plans will allow our group to continue to provide much needed services on the Rockton campus as well, particularly providing access to emergency services, convenient care services, and inpatient services. Not only will MercyRockford's plans create needed, state-of-the-art facilities on the Riverside Campus, but the regional economic vitality of that campus, including attracting patients from Wisconsin, will enable MercyRockford to make continued investments in its current campus on N. Rockton Ave.

Sincerely,

The physicians of RMH Pathologists, Ltd.

Connie Vitali, M.D.
Connie Vitali, MD
Korrin Meier, M.D.
Korrin Meier, M.D.
Matthew Twohig, M.D.
Matthew Twohig, M.D.
James Harker, M.D.