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AT ROCKFORD

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**RECEIVED**

AUG 01 2011

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

July 28, 2011

Ms. Courtney R. Avery  
Administrator  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Centegra Hospital-Huntley, Project No. 10-090

Dear Ms. Avery,

In response to a request from Rowena Wermes and as a follow-up to a letter submitted to you last week, I will describe the purpose and our role in the 2010 McHenry County Healthy Community project.

Health Systems Research of the University of Illinois was contracted by the McHenry County Healthy Community, a collaborative of 19 partners, to conduct three assessments for this study as well as the Executive Summary. HSR had assisted in the 2006 Healthy Community Study. Like 2006, the 2010 study was broad in scope, not intended as a needs assessment for any particular type of service.

The broad nature of the study is stated in the first sentence of the 2010 Executive Summary "*the health of the community extends far beyond the traditional view focused on select health measures and availability of medical resources. Rather, a healthy community encompasses a broad range of community characteristics that define the ingredients of a healthy place to live.*" As further described in that introduction, the study's overall purpose was to understand and address the county's most pressing needs. Based on the assessments' findings, the four primary priorities as approved by the 2010 Healthy Community partners are information and referral, obesity/nutrition, dental care for low-income population and access to mental health/substance abuse services. Workgroups have been formed to address these priorities. In addition, partner organizations are encouraged to use the study's findings for their own organization's strategic planning efforts. All 2010 McHenry County Healthy Community assessments are public and available on line.

McHenry County has a strong record of collaboration through the Healthy Community process. Partner organizations have devoted attention and impressive resources to addressing the needs of area residents. Health Systems Research has been fortunate to be part of this process. As lead researcher for the study, I am happy to answer any questions or provide more information about the 2010 McHenry County Healthy Community study findings.

Sincerely,



Deborah Lischwe