



Fresenius Medical Care

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February 3, 2012

FEB 07 2012

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Dale Galassie
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62716

Re: Project #11-096, Fresenius Medical Care Cicero

Dear Mr. Galassie,

As manager at the Berwyn Dialysis clinic I perceive there is a need for a clinic in east Cicero because we are unable to accommodate the growing needs of the residents in the Berwyn/Cicero area, as well as east of Cicero Ave. A large number of our patients come from the east area of Cicero, this is the area of growth. There are no dialysis centers in the center of this area, but at a significant distance. Presently we are unable to allow for all patients to be placed on a schedule that is both convenient for them as well as family members, especially those that depend on family members to transport them to and from their 3 days a week dialysis treatments.

A clinic in the east Cicero area would additionally allow for continuity of care by the same physicians. Sending patients elsewhere who have established a long relationship with their physicians can be devastating and adds to feelings of frustration and helplessness, especially at a time of major change or issues in their lives.

Many of the patients here speak only Spanish and we have a large number of Spanish speaking staff members here who can help these patients adjust to and understand their disease and treatment. Some of the other clinics in the area do not have the ability to serve this specific patient population in the same way. The clinic in east Cicero would have the same excellent quality of care as the present Berwyn Unit.

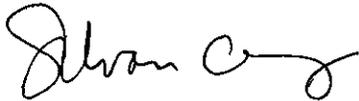
In conclusion, a clinic in the Cicero community would alleviate the scheduling needs, serve an area of growing number of patients, provide continuity of care for the dialysis patients, and it would also help improve patient's transportation issues.

I ask that you would strongly consider and approve the request for a new clinic in Cicero.

Hemodialysis is a tiresome treatment that needs to be incorporated into a life-time routine. It makes sense that a clinic should be in a convenient area, easily accessible to the disabled individual. Additionally there are no other clinics in the center of this area. Clinics surround the proposed Cicero clinic but this new clinic would be in an underserved area.

It is my hope that the Cicero dialysis clinic is approved so Cicero patients can have the privilege of getting their treatment in their own "backyard".

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Silvana Chavez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Silvana Chavez, LCSW
Fresenius Medical Care, Berwyn Dialysis
2601 S. Harlem
Berwyn, IL 60402



Fresenius Medical Care

February 3, 2012

Dale Galassie
Chairman
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

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FEB 07 2012
HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Re: #11-096, Fresenius Medical Care Cicero

Dear Mr. Galassie and Members of the IHFSRB:

On behalf of the dialysis patients who reside in Cicero, I am writing to ask you to reconsider your intent to deny vote on January 10th for the Fresenius Cicero dialysis clinic and approve this clinic. It is my opinion that a dialysis clinic in Cicero is much needed to help with transportation issues that I see the patients go through first-hand and to facilitate their adherence to treatment. As you know, hemodialysis is a chronic treatment which requires visits to the clinic at least three times per week. This amounts to 156 visits to and from dialysis a year. It becomes a huge part of a patient's life and family's life especially if they are dropping off and return to pick them up. It is a place where patients must spend time for at least twelve hours per week for life. The dialysis clinic is sometimes described as a "second home" by some patients.

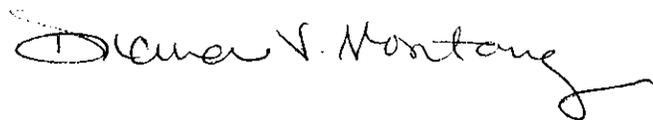
The patients who attend the Berwyn clinic are comprised of different ages, but most are older and have degenerative diseases which impede their ability to utilize their five senses. Many cannot read due to vision loss, language barrier and many are functionally illiterate. Some have neuropathy and are unsteady on their feet. Many do not have automobiles or driver's licenses due to socio-economic issues. They are not able to navigate out of their neighborhood for treatment. One can only imagine the hardship involved in trying to venture out of their home to attend medical appointments especially if they are not in familiar surroundings. They are dependent on outside transportation resources to get to the clinic safely and then return home.

A clinic in their community would also allow for family and neighbors to participate in helping their relative to the clinic. The closer to home, the more transportation options they have. For these patients reaching the clinics at West Suburban, Oak Park, Austin and Midway from Cicero is difficult due to the slow progression of traffic in this area and the previously mentioned socio-economic circumstances. It can make for a very long day, three times weekly. Patients are fatigued, hungry, and nauseated in some cases.

Fresenius Medical Care ♦ Berwyn Dialysis Center

2601 South Harlem Avenue Berwyn, Illinois 60402 708-484-7300 ; Fax: 708-484-6185

Thanking you kindly,
Diana V. Montanez
Clinic Manager
FMC Berwyn

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diana V. Montanez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and a long, sweeping tail at the end.