



VNA Health Care

400 N Highland Ave. (630) 978-2532 Tel
Aurora IL 60506 (630) 978-2709 Fax
www.vnahealth.com

Professional Care by Caring Professionals.

February 1, 2012

RECEIVED

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

FEB 07 2012

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Re: Project #11-120, Fresenius Medical Care East Aurora

Dear Mr. Galassie:

I am writing in support of Fresenius Medical Care's proposed East Aurora dialysis facility to be established at 924 E. New York Street, Aurora. VNA Health Care operates a Federally Qualified Health Center in Aurora that provides primary health care to approximately 24,000 residents in the Aurora area. Of this population, approximately 63% are Hispanic and 14% African American. The east side of Aurora, where the clinic will be located, is considered a medically underserved area. The population that resides in this area is often undocumented and indigent with no health insurance. Due to their economic status, transportation, which is a key to obtaining lifesaving dialysis treatment, is difficult for them.

Fresenius Medical Care and Dr. Dodhia, Medical Director of Fresenius Medical Care Dialysis Center in Aurora, have had a long history of serving patients with kidney failure in our area. Dr. Dodhia is a well respected nephrologist among his peers, patients, and also by members of the community. He is a strong supporter of home dialysis and transplant and volunteers his time throughout the healthcare community of Aurora.

Given the fact that this is an underserved area and the fact that the Hispanic and African American population has a higher propensity to be diagnosed with the two leading causes of kidney failure, diabetes and hypertension, I strongly encourage the Board to approve this project. It is well known there are a growing number of end stage renal disease patients in Aurora and with area dialysis clinics operating at high utilization numbers, additional access is needed to serve this disadvantaged population. Sending patients out of their community for dialysis services is not an option for them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Linnea Windel, President / CEO