



The United Neighborhood Organization

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MAY 17 2012

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

May 4, 2012

Mr. Dale Galassie
Chairman
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Letter of Support for U.S. Renal Care Villa Park Dialysis Certificate of Need Application, Project No. 12-026

Dear Chairman Galassie,

This letter is written in support of the U.S. Renal Care Villa Park Dialysis Certificate of Need Application. The Villa Park and Addison communities are in great need of additional dialysis resources to provide care to the growing population of Hispanic residents who require such services. Both the high incidence of end stage renal disease for Hispanics and the growing Hispanic population in Villa Park and Addison make it essential that the Board approve this project to provide much needed dialysis resources for the Villa Park and Addison communities.

According to the 2010 census, the Village of Villa Park saw an increase of 40% in its Hispanic population from 2,770 individuals in 2000 to 3,894 individuals in 2010, which is 17.8% of Villa Park's total population. In Addison, the Hispanic population saw an increase of 45% in its Hispanic population from 10,198 individuals in 2000 to 14,212 individuals in 2010, which is 40.1% of Addison's total population.

In addition to the high population growth in the Villa Park and Addison communities, Hispanic populations also suffer from an incidence rate of end stage renal disease which is two times greater than for Non-Hispanic Whites. This rate of incidence is more severe in certain populations with some studies documenting incidence rates for diabetic end stage renal disease as high as six times for Mexican Americans as compared to their non-Hispanic white counterparts. It is clear that without this project the high incidence of end stage renal disease coupled with the substantial growth of Hispanic residents will result in an extreme shortfall in dialysis resources in the Villa Park and Addison communities. The state of Illinois cannot afford to neglect the growing health care needs of its residents.

I believe that this project is essential to meet the needs of the Villa Park and Addison Hispanic communities and urge the Board to approve this project.

Respectfully,

Juan Rangel

May 3, 2012

Mr. Dale Galassie
Chairman
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Chairman Galassie:

I am writing to you to voice my strong support for a U.S. Renal Care facility in Villa Park. I am a nephrologist serving patients in and around the Western Suburbs, including the Elmhurst and Villa Park communities. My practice includes primary care as well as nephrology, and I frequently work with elderly and chronically ill patients who suffer from end-stage renal failure. As a result, much of my work is focused on helping them manage their dialysis care.

All the care in the world is useless if patients don't have access to it. Unfortunately, many of my patients do not have that access, and they tell me every day that what is truly needed is a Villa Park dialysis facility. Many of my patients had been receiving treatment for years at the Villa Park facility, which closed recently. That facility was conveniently located, accessible and easy to navigate. But since its closing, patients have had no other option but to visit a different facility that is often farther from their homes and difficult for many chronically ill patients to navigate. As a result, they are spending more time - and money - to get to and from dialysis, they are relying on friends and family for transportation, and generally experiencing significant barriers to their care.

It is clear to me that the demand for this vital health care service far exceeds its availability, and I am concerned that the severe shortage is negatively impacting my patients' well-being. As our communities age, health issues like diabetes and kidney disease are only going to grow, as is the need for dialysis care. As a physician, my priority is responding to a need for care, and I believe U.S. Renal Care's application for a Villa Park facility is an excellent way to do that. I urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve the U.S. Renal Care application for a Villa Park facility. I believe it would improve access to lifesaving care for so many of my patients and their families. Thank you for considering this important project.

Sincerely,



Antonios Papadopoulos, M.D.

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Elmhurst Memorial
Elmhurst Clinic

May 2, 2012

Mr. Dale Galassie, Chairman
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Chairman Galassie:

As CEO of the Elmhurst Clinic, I am writing in support of Dr. Michael Cohan who intends to practice at a dialysis facility proposed for Villa Park, IL by US Renal Care. In his role as a nephrologist with Elmhurst Clinic, I have seen Dr. Cohan's devotion to his practice and his patients.

Dr. Cohan has 20 years of experience treating patients with chronic kidney disease and kidney failure. He coordinates care for each patient to determine the best course of treatment, whether that is a transplant, hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis or another course of action.

Because patients with chronic kidney disease often suffer from other health issues, they often have multiple physicians treating their various conditions. Dr. Cohan works closely with other physicians to ensure coordinated patient care. Dr. Cohan regularly receives thank you notes and calls from patients to express their gratitude.

Nothing is more important to physicians than patients' health and well being. Dr. Cohan has proven his commitment to those who rely on him for care. He is well-suited to serve as Medical Director of the proposed Villa Park dialysis facility. Thank you for the opportunity to support Dr. Cohan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald R. Lurye".

Donald R. Lurye, MD, MMM, CPE
Chief Executive Officer
Elmhurst Clinic, LLC



Elmhurst Memorial
Elmhurst Clinic

05/07/12

Mr. Dale Galassie
Chairman
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Chairman Galassie:

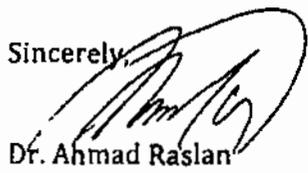
I am writing to you to express my support for Dr. Michael Cohan and the application before this board for a U.S. Renal Care facility in Villa Park. I believe Dr. Cohan's medical expertise coupled with the need for dialysis access makes this application worthy of approval.

I have worked alongside Dr. Cohan for 5 years at the Elmhurst Clinic. I am confident that his role as Medical Director of the U.S. Renal Care facility will mean great things for any dialysis patient that walks through the door of the facility. His exceptional medical experience in treating patients with end-stage renal failure and transplantation, paired with the compassion and care he delivers will help make the facility a thriving treatment center for patients.

As a pulmonary specialist, I understand how important it is to be a partner in your patients' health care. Dr. Cohan is well-known for the extraordinary care he provides his patients and the extra mile he is willing to go to make sure they feel comfortable and have the necessary information to ensure health and wellness.

In conclusion, I urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve U.S. Renal Care's application for a facility in Villa Park. Dr. Cohan's integrity and devotion to renal care is unmatched, and I am confident that those qualities will carry through in the facility he would oversee. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my strong support for this important project and stellar physician.

Sincerely,


Dr. Ahmad Raslan

May 1, 2012

Mr. Dale Galassie
Chairman
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Chairman Galassie:

Please accept this letter as a strong show of support for U.S. Renal Care and Dr. Michael Cohan's plans to open a dialysis treatment center in Villa Park. I, among many others, would benefit greatly from such a facility.

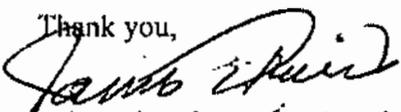
I have been on dialysis and a patient of Dr. Cohan's for 5 years. Up until just a few weeks ago, I was receiving my dialysis treatments in Villa Park. It was very close to home, I was able to drive myself, park right near the door and walk right in. It was easy and convenient, just as it should be.

Since that facility closed, I had to move to another facility in Elmhurst and it has been a nightmare. There is not nearly enough handicapped parking, and I have to park so far away. I have a breathing problem so this has been very difficult for me. I cannot even walk to the front door on my own. Even if I could, the "drop-off zone" is congested and dangerous, and I do not want to walk through there given my condition. Once I get in the building, I have to walk down long corridors to get to the treatment areas. I am exhausted before I even start my treatment.

As a result of all of the difficulties and problems of getting to dialysis, my neighbor has to bring me to my treatments. Although she is very kind to do so, considering that I come in three times a week, I hate to inconvenience her. I just wish it was easier for me to get to and from dialysis.

As many patients will tell you, kidney dialysis treatments are already disruptive and inconvenient. But they are necessary. And it would be helpful if they weren't *quite* so disruptive. A more convenient facility to home would be so much more convenient, and I am in full support of U.S. Renal opening such a location in Villa Park.

Thank you,


4008 PARK AVE
BERKELEY, ILL 60163
Jim Travis



STEPHEN P. BOGHOSSIAN, M.D., F.A.C.S.

STEPHEN J. MENDAK, M.D., F.A.C.S

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May 5, 2012

Mr. Dale Galassie
Chairman
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

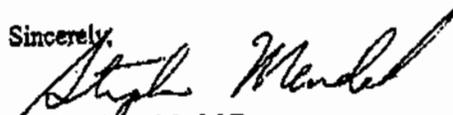
Dear Chairman Galassie:

I am writing to you to express my full support of Dr. Michael Cohan and the efforts to open a U.S. Renal Care dialysis facility in Villa Park. I have known Dr. Cohan for 20 years, and I find him to be a competent, enthusiastic and compassionate nephrologist. Area patients will not only benefit from having Dr. Cohan as the Medical Director of this dialysis center, but it will also provide them with the access they need to quality care close to home.

As a surgeon, I have the opportunity to work with a wide range of physicians. If there is one thing that distinguishes Dr. Cohan, it is his unending commitment to putting his patients before anything else. I have had the opportunity to work in conjunction with Dr. Cohan on a number of patients, and in all the years we have known each other, I have never witnessed an unwillingness to give the best possible care to a patient. Sometimes that means staying late to talk through scenarios. Other times it means providing patients with his cell phone number. Patients are his number one priority, and it is clear to me that delivering care to them is what drives him.

I recognize the thought and consideration you put toward this kind of application. As the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board, you have a critical role in ensuring access to quality care for Illinois residents. I can assure you that Dr. Cohan and U.S. Renal Care are exactly the kind of partners you want giving care to Illinois dialysis patients. Both are singularly focused on patient care and have long track records of not just delivering critical care, but also providing the support patients and their families need. After reviewing credentials and the need for this kind of center, I am confident the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board will approve this important project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Stephen Mendak, M.D.