



WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
&
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

Dale Galassie, Chairman
Illinois Health Facilities and Service Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street
2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RECEIVED

OCT 09 2012

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Dear Mr. Galassie,

This letter is in support of U.S. Renal Care projects 12-058 and 12-059

My name is John Kabler and I am the Chief Medical Officer for the Will County Community Health Center (WCCHC). Since 1995 the WCCHC has been caring for the underinsured and uninsured residents of Will County. Needless to say, our staff is very familiar with the healthcare needs of the area. We are a public entity model community health center whose co-applicant and grantee is the Will County Health Department (WCHD). In this past year alone the WCCHC and the WCHD served over 2000 patients.

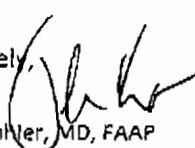
While we offer a wide range of health care service to accommodate the needs of our community, access to specialized care for local patients is imperative, especially when it comes to dialysis. As such, I am writing on behalf of the WCCHC to urge you to support U.S. Renal Care's proposal for a new dialysis facility in Plainfield. This facility will help to improve the quality of life for dialysis patients of Will County.

From what I understand, Plainfield already has one dialysis facility. However, according to US Census data, from 2000-2010 Plainfield village was the 6th fastest-growing city in the country with a change of 203.6%. (<http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-01.pdf>)

Specifically, in that time Plainfield's Hispanic/Latino population has quadrupled to make up almost 11% of the village's population while African American residents has increased twentyfold to make up almost 6% of the local population. This is particularly notable as minorities tend to develop diabetes, which is one of the leading causes of kidney failure, at higher rates than the general population. In order to keep up with this unique population growth, we must ensure that our county is providing its residents with the ample medical resources they need.

WCCHC is committed to offering equal access to care regardless of a patient's ability to pay. However, if we cannot refer patients to a dialysis center that is easy for them to access, it becomes much more difficult to maintain the continuity of care that our patients deserve. For this reason and the reasons previously stated, I ask the board to approve U.S. Renal Care's proposals for new facility in Plainfield. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


John Kabler, MD, FAAP
Chief Medical Officer
Will County Community Health Center



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