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HEALTH FACILITIES &
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STATE OF ILLINOIS
BEFORE THE HEALTH FACILITIES AND
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

IN RE THE MATTER OF:
VISTA MEDICAL CENTER
LINDENHURST.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

NOVEMBER 15, 2012

NATIONWIDE SCHEDULING

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
BEFORE THE HEALTH FACILITIES AND
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

IN RE THE MATTER OF:)
VISTA MEDICAL CENTER)
LINDENHURST.)

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS had in the
above-entitled matter at Lake Villa Township,
37850 North Route 59, Lake Villa, Illinois, on
the 15th day of November, A.D. 2012, at 11:00
a.m.

BEFORE:
MS. COURTNEY AVERY, Administrator
MS. ALEXIS MURONO KENDRICK,
Compliance/Legislative Manager
MR. RICHARD H. SEWELL, UIC School
of Public Health

1 APPEARANCES:

2 ILLINOIS HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES

3 REVIEW BOARD

4 525 West Jefferson Street

5 Springfield, Illinois 62761

6 217-782-3516

7 MS. COURTNEY AVERY, Administrator

8 MS. ALEXIS MURONO KENDRICK,

9 Compliance/Legislative Manager

10 MR. RICHARD H. SEWELL, UIC School of

11 Public Health

12 PRESENT_IN_SUPPORT_OF_VISTA_PROJECT_#12-081:

13 BARBARA J. MARTIN, President & CEO, Vista

14 Health System

15 TERRY LINK, Senator Majority Caucus Whip,

16 30th District

17 SUZI SCHMIDT, State Senator for the 31st

18 District

19 JIM NEWTON, County Board Representative

20 for Lindenhurst

21 RASHMIKANT PATEL, M.D., Vista Board

22 member

23 TRACY MCGRATH, Trustee Lindenhurst

24 Village Board

1 PRESENT_IN_SUPPORT_OF_VISTA_PROJECT_#12-081:

2 JoAnn Osmond, Representative for the 61st
3 District

4 FRANK SLAZES, Fire Chief, Lake Villa Fire
5 Department

6 DANIEL VENTURI, Lake Villa Township
7 Supervisor

8 DENNIS THAIN, M.D., Family Medicine.

9 WENDY LOTTIS, M.D., President of the Vista
10 Health Systems Medical Staff

11 EDWARD HAMMING, M.D.,

12 GUY ABDERHOLDEN, M.D.,

13 MATT FORMICH, Village of Lindenhurst.

14 SUSAN LAHR, Mayor of the Village of
15 Lindenhurst.

16 NAREN KAPADIA, M.D.,

17 Oncologist/Hematologist, Waukegan

18 FRANK LOFFREDO, Mayor of Lake Villa

19 DOMINIC MARTURANO, Trustee for the
20 Village of Lindenhurst

21 BRIAN DEKIND, Chief of the Antioch Rescue
22 Squad

23 MATT FLYNN, M.D.,

24 DR. NEIL PULLER, Radiologist

1 PRESENT_IN_SUPPORT_OF_VISTA_PROJECT_#12-081:

2 DAN YOUNG, Fire Chief of Waukegan

3 JOHN CLAUSE, police chief in Lindenhurst

4 MICHAEL WELSH, President of Rothstein

5 University of Medicine Science

6 DAVID STOLMAN, am Chairman of the Lake

7 County Board

8 DEBORAH SMART, M.D., Vista Health System

9 ROBERT SABONJIAN, Mayor of the City of
10 Waukegan

11 ELEANOR MURKEY, Vista Board member

12 VERA VANCAMP, Lake County Board

13 LARRY STEERUP, Cancer patient

14 ANIL KHURANA, M.D., Vista Physician Group

15 ELIZABETH SCHMIDT

16 JOEL KRAFT, Hillcrest Nursing Center

17 LAVANYA SRINIVASAN, M.D.,

18 Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine

19 ART NEUBAUER, Tresurer of Lindenhurst

20 CLAIRE RENOW,

21 JOHN R. NIXON,

22 DIANA O'KELLY,

23 PINTO-THOMAS, M.D.,

24 GEETHA M. REDDY, M.D.,

1 PRESENT_IN_SUPPORT_OF_VISTA_PROJECT_#12-081:

2 LEON ROCKINGHAM,
3 DR. SERGEI SHEVLYAGIN,
4 GARY STITTGEN,
5 ISAAC THOMAS, M.D.,
6 PAUL TIERNEY,
7 STEVE VORACEK,
8 WILLIAM E. WOODS, M.D.,
9 DIONISIO B. YORRO, JR., M.D.,
10 KAREN HARMS,
11 AMY SWIFT-JOHNSON, M.D.,
12 JAMES ADAMSON, M.D.,
13 MAHESH AGARWAL, M.D.,
14 NEJD F. ALSIKAFI, M.D.,
15 TERRY AMANTI,
16 BILL ANDERSON,
17 JENNIFER BELLUCCI-JACKSON, M.D.,
18 ANTAO DU, M.D.,
19 JAI JUNG NHO, M.D.,
20 HANK GOVEKAR,
21 NESTOR GUZMAN, M.D.
22 LEONARD GINZBURG, M.D.,
23 LAWRENCE M. HANSON,
24 OSCAR GIRON, M.D.,

1 PRESENT_IN_SUPPORT_OF_VISTA_PROJECT_#12-081:

- 2 YOGINDER KUMAR, M.D.,
3 ANGELO KYLE,
4 HANK GOVEKAR,
5 SHAUNA HASKE,
6 FRED FREDL,
7 RICHARD HILL,
8 JIM ZEGAR,
9 ROBERT THAIN, M.D.,
10 NANCY BOCK,
11 JAMES BORIS,
12 JODI BROWN,
13 JAMES ADAMSON, M.D.,
14 FREDERICK CAPACCIO,
15 PATRICIA CHYBOWSKI,
16 CHARLES JAFFE, D.O.,
17 ROBERT KOCH, D.O.,
18 J. WILLIAM BENGE, M.D.,
19 FAHD JAJEH, M.D.,
20 MAHER NAHLAWI, M.D.
21 KEVIN LIEBOVICH, M.D.,
22 ART NEUBAUER,
23 MOO U. LIM, M.D.,
24 RICHARD MARGOLIN, M.D.,

1 PRESENT_IN_OPPPOSITION_OF_VISTA_PROJECT_#12-081:

2 REBECCA STANDISH, Planning Anlayst,

3 Centegra Health System

4 ROWENA WERNES, Centegra Health system

5 KRIS HEWITT, Pastor of United Church of

6 Christ in Mundelein

7 SCOTT POWIT, Senior Vice President of

8 Strategic Planning at Abbott Healthcare.

9 JENNIFER DEVRULET, M.D., Internal

10 Medicine

11 DOMINICA TALLARICO, President of Advocate

12 Condell Medical Center.

13 BRUCE HYMAN, M.D., Condell Medical Center

14 WILLIAM MALONEY, M.D. Chair of the

15 Department of Emergency Medicine,

16 Advocate Condell Medical Center

17 MYNDE BALDWIN, Manager of Planning for

18 Advocate Condell Medical Center

19 KATIE KERRIGAN, Founder and CEO of

20 Kathryn Kerrigan, Inc.

21 JACK FRANOSZEK, M.D., Medical Director

22 SARAH TOOMEY, Citizen

23 VIRGINIA FRIESEN, Citizen

24 STANLEY DEE, M.D., Medical Director

1 PRESENT_IN_OPPOSITION_OF_VISTA_PROJECT_#12-081:

2 TRENT GORDON, the Director of Business
3 Development at Advocate Good Shepherd
4 Hospital

5 RAEANNA FULLER, nurse manager of the
6 intensive care unit at Advocate Condell
7 Medical Center

8 MATT FLYNN, Representative of
9 Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital

10 DAVID CARTWRIGHT, Chief Financial Officer
11 of Advocate Condell Medical Center

12 HELEN MILLER, Art teacher

13 JEFFREY SO, Director of Business
14 Development, Advocate Health Care

15
16

17 ALSO PRESENT:

18 The Court Reporter:
19 Ms. Patricia A. Armstrong, CSR, RPR,
20 Illinois CSR No. 084-001766
21 Midwest Litigation Services
22 711 North Eleventh Street
23 St. Louis, Missouri 63101
24 (800) 280-3376

1 MS. KENDRICK: Good morning everyone. We
2 are going to get started.

3 Thank you for attending the public
4 hearing for Vista Medical Vista Medican Center,
5 Lindenhurst. I am Alexis Kendrick, the Hearing
6 Officer, for the Illinois Health Facilities and
7 Services Review Board.

8 Also present with me today is board
9 member, Richard Sewell, as well as Board
10 Administrator, Courtney Avery.

11 As per the rules of the Illinois
12 Health Facilities Services Review Board, I would
13 like to read the previously published notice
14 into the record.

15 In accordance with the requirements
16 of the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act,
17 notice is given of receipt to establish an acute
18 care hospital in Lindenhurst, Illinois, Project
19 No. 12-081, Vista Medical Center, Lindenhurst.

20 The applicants are Lindenhurst,
21 Illinois Hospital Company, LLC and Community
22 Health Systems, Incorporated.

23 The applicants propose to establish
24 a 132 bed acute care hospital in 204,519 gross

1 square feet of space located at the corner of
2 Grand Avenue and North Deep Lake Road,
3 Lindenhurst.

4 The project costs amount to
5 \$131,062,444. A public hearing will take place
6 pursuant to Section 1130.910 of the Board's
7 rules.

8 The hearing is scheduled for
9 11:00 a.m. November 15, 2012 located here at
10 Lake Villa Township West Campus, 37850 North
11 Route 59, Lake Villa, Illinois 60046. Sign-in
12 has already been conducted prior to this time.

13 The public hearing will be
14 conducted by the staff of the Health Facilities
15 and Services Review Board pursuant to the
16 Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act.

17 The hearing is open to the public
18 and will afford an opportunity for parties with
19 interest to present written and/or verbal
20 comment relevant to the project.

21 All allegations or assertions
22 should be relevant to the need for the proposed
23 project and be supported with two copies of
24 documentation or materials that are printed or

1 typed on paper size eight and a half by 11.

2 Consideration by the State Board
3 has been tentatively scheduled for the
4 February 5, 2013 State Board meeting.

5 Please note that in order to assure
6 that the Health Facilities & Services Review
7 Board public hearing protect the privacy and
8 maintain the confidentiality of an individual's
9 health information, covered entities as defined
10 by the Health Insurance Portability Act of 1996
11 such as the facilities, hospital providers,
12 health claims, and health care claim houses
13 submitting oral or written testimony that
14 discloses protected health information of
15 individuals shall have a valid written
16 authorization from that individual.

17 The authorization shall allow the
18 covered entities to share the individual's
19 protective health information at this hearing.

20 If you have not yet signed in and
21 received a blue number card, please see Courtney
22 now.

23 Please note that there is also a
24 form for individuals wanting to register their

1 attendance and support or opposition without
2 providing oral or written testimony.

3 Those of you who came with prepared
4 text of your testimony may choose to submit the
5 written text without giving an oral
6 presentation. The written testimony will be
7 entered into today's record.

8 Due to the number of individuals
9 registered to testify, please limit your
10 testimony to two minutes.

11 I will call participants in
12 accordance to the predistributed preprinted
13 numbers. Please drop off your printed number
14 and sign-in sheet prior to testifying.

15 When you begin your remarks, please
16 clearly state and spell your first and last
17 name.

18 After you have concluded your
19 remarks, if you have written copies of your
20 testimony, please provide it to Courtney Avery.

21 Today's proceedings will begin with
22 representatives from Vista Medical Center.

23 So, No. 1.

24 MS. MARTIN: Good morning. I am Barbara

1 J. Martin, and I am the Chief Executive Officer
2 of Vista Health System.

3 Vista operates Vista Medical Center
4 East and Vista Medical Center West, both in
5 Waukegan. We also serve patients at several
6 other facilities throughout Lake County. This
7 includes Vista's freestanding emergency center
8 in Lindenhurst.

9 Our FEC provides emergency care to
10 residents of northwestern and north central Lake
11 County faster and closer to home than ever
12 before.

13 Today you will hear from dozens of
14 people who support Vista's application to build
15 a hospital in Lindenhurst.

16 Our supporters include emergency
17 first responders, elected officials, business
18 and community leaders, physicians, and others
19 who care deeply about access to health care. I
20 would like to thank those supporters. My
21 comments today focus on three areas.

22 First, my overall message is that
23 Vista is solidly committed to Waukegan and Lake
24 County for the long haul.

1 While other health systems have
2 stayed away from Waukegan, we have continued to
3 invest in our Waukegan hospitals.

4 In fact, if you look back to 2006,
5 you could conclude that if Community Health
6 Systems and Vista had not acquired St. Therese
7 and Victory Memorial, there might not even be a
8 hospital in Waukegan today.

9 Other health systems have stayed
10 away from Waukegan because they would prefer to
11 serve a more affluent patient base than we have
12 in Waukegan.

13 Today, I am proud to report that we
14 have expanded our services at Vista East and
15 Vista West.

16 We have invested in our
17 infrastructure and patient care because we know
18 that Vista East truly is Lake County's primary
19 safety net hospital.

20 And, Vista West offers the only
21 remaining adult and child/adolescent inpatient
22 psychiatry unit in Lake County.

23 Mayor Sabonjian will speak a little
24 later about Vista's commitment to Waukgan, but I

1 want to assure you that our plans in Lindenhurst
2 in no way signal a change to that commitment.
3 Rather, we are expanding our commitment to Lake
4 County as a whole.

5 My next point is this: Vista's
6 commitment to the Lindenhurst area also is
7 strong and well-established.

8 For more than a decade, we have
9 taken a logical, measured approach to serving
10 northwestern Lake County.

11 We started years ago with an
12 outpatient surgery center, a diagnostic
13 laboratory and radiology services.

14 Eighteen months ago, the Review
15 Board approved our plans for a Freestanding
16 Emergency Center at the Lindenhurst campus.

17 Since completion in July 2011, we
18 have had an extremely positive response from the
19 community.

20 We will see approximately 12,000
21 emergency department visits there this year. Of
22 those visits, over 100 patients a month are
23 subsequently admitted to the hospital.

24 The high utilization of the center

1 confirms that the demand for health care in
2 north central and northwestern Lake County,
3 which others had questioned, is there.

4 Our Medical Office building opened
5 recently, too. So, now, to fully serve the
6 community, we need inpatient hospital beds and
7 services in Lindenhurst, to improve health care
8 access.

9 One last thing, Vista Health System
10 serves patients who live paycheck to paycheck,
11 plus those who don't even have a paycheck.

12 We know that leaders of several
13 other health systems with hospitals in Lake
14 County are going to oppose our application for a
15 Lindenhurst Hospital.

16 So, Review Board members might ask
17 themselves why these other systems are opposing
18 Vista's plan.

19 I will tell you why. It is about
20 their payor mix. They are afraid that if Vista,
21 which serves the poorest patients in Lake County
22 365 days a year, every year, opens a new
23 hospital, their payor mix may not be as
24 lucrative as it is today.

1 Step back and look at where those
2 other hospitals are located. They are in
3 Highland Park, Lake Forest, Barrington,
4 Libertyville. These are some of the most
5 affluent communities in Lake County; and they
6 are some of the most affluent communities in the
7 entire State of Illinois.

8 They are not interested in patients
9 from Waukegan or North Chicago or any of the
10 other Lake County communities with the high
11 poverty levels Vista serves.

12 Leaders from some of these other
13 systems will probably quote their charity care
14 numbers in an attempt to show that they care
15 about serving low income and uninsured patients.
16 But that is far from the whole story. Take a
17 look at how few Medicaid patients these other
18 hospitals treat.

19 For illustration, let's take one
20 example. Let's compare Vista, a two-hospital
21 system, with another system that has two
22 hospitals in Lake County, Advocate Healthcare.
23 Advocate has Good Shepherd Hospital in
24 Barrington and Condell Hospital in Libertyville.

1 When it comes to serving Medicaid
2 patients, Vista's two hospitals combined, East
3 and West, serve a far greater percentage of
4 Medicaid patients, out of the total number of
5 patients, than Advocate's two Lake County
6 hospitals do, combined.

7 Vista's combined Medicaid
8 admissions in 2011 were 34.4 percent of all
9 patients served in-patient and out-patient, at
10 our two hospitals.

11 By comparison, Advocate's combined
12 Medicaid patients in 2011 were far less. They
13 were 11.5 percent of all in-patient and
14 out-patient care for Advocate's two Lake County
15 hospitals.

16 As a proportion of new revenue,
17 Vista's Medicaid patient revenue is 21.6 percent
18 of net revenue.

19 Advocate's combined net Medicaid
20 revenue for Condell and Good Shepherd is just
21 7.2 percent of net revenue.

22 In closing, I ask you to look at
23 the big picture.

24 In Lake County, we have so many

1 people, with so little access to healthcare, and
2 so much growth. Vista Health System has a
3 consistent track record of responding to the
4 health care needs of all Lake County residents.
5 We are especially attuned to those who are most
6 vulnerable.

7 Vista is applying to build a new
8 hospital to improve access to health care for
9 patients.

10 Others are opposing us because of
11 what they fear it will do to their payor mix.
12 Their opposition isn't about the patients. We
13 believe the issue of access to health care
14 should trump concerns over the bottom lines of
15 hospitals that are located in the most affluent
16 parts of this county.

17 Thank you for your time.
18 Sincerely, Barbara J. Martin, President & CEO,
19 Vista Health System.

20 MS. KENDRICK: We have a two-minute
21 testimony limit, and this is for the interests
22 of efficiency.

23 Now, if your written testimony is
24 longer than that, it will all be submitted into

1 the record; and all of the board members will
2 receive that.

3 But in order to make sure that
4 everybody gets a fair chance to speak today, we
5 are going to limit oral testimony to two
6 minutes.

7 Now, for No. 2, when you come up
8 here, please provide your number on this table
9 right here as well as your sign-in sheets on the
10 table here; and then when you are finished, you
11 can submit your written testimony supporting it.
12 Thank you.

13 MS. ROBERTS: Good morning. My name is
14 Shannon Roberts. I am here as a Waukegan
15 resident and a member of Lake County United.

16 Lake County United is a non-profit,
17 non-partisan organization of 38 civil societies,
18 institutions, churches, synagogs and mosques and
19 civic groups.

20 As broad-based these organizations
21 are, we have built relationships across Lake
22 County and identified community concerns and
23 needs and work together as a united power for
24 human dignities and social justice.

1 In particular, we encourage
2 conversation across partisan economic and
3 community lines.

4 Together the organization's
5 38-member institutions represent 75,000
6 residents from all parts of Lake County. We
7 have seven member institutions in Waukegan
8 representing 14,750 people.

9 As an organization, we have no
10 financial or organizational interests in the
11 outcome of this hearing.

12 Our only interest is the Lake
13 County resident's health care needs are being
14 met in the highest quality manner equitable
15 access.

16 We are concerned that people in all
17 parts of the County, including Lindenhurst,
18 receive high quality accessible health care; but
19 we are also concerned about the commitment of
20 Vista to Waukegan and North Chicago.

21 Over the last five years Vista has
22 made considerable improvements in the access
23 quality health care in Waukegan, but we don't
24 see how investing in a new project will be

1 possible while maintaining and continuing to
2 improve access to health care in Waukegan.

3 MS. KENDRICK: 30 seconds.

4 MS. ROBERTS: We would like the Board to
5 consider including a written mandate if they
6 approve the development of the hospital in
7 Lindenhurst that there be clear mandates that
8 access to services in Waukegan continue at the
9 level that they are and that they continued to
10 be improved.

11 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you.

12 No. 3. Please remember to spell
13 your name for the court reporter.

14 SENATOR LINK: I am Senator Link, Terry,
15 T-e-r-r-y L-i-n-k. I have a written letter, but
16 I am going to talk on a personal basis.

17 Just short of 66 years ago I was
18 born in Victory Memorial Hospital, which is now
19 Vista East. Three other siblings were born at
20 Victory Memorial Hospital. My children were
21 born in St. Therese Hospital, and I have a
22 definite affection for the hospitals. I want to
23 tell you that for one reason.

24 We on the northeastern part of Lake

1 County have had the privilege of fine health
2 care all those years ago. We continue to have
3 that fine health care on that part of the
4 county.

5 Vista has continued to have that
6 positive health care for us now and I know it
7 will continue to be that way, because I have
8 been a watchdog and watching a continuous role
9 of what the hospital has down there. I have
10 worked closely with Barb Martin and its
11 affiliates.

12 I am making sure that Waukegan has
13 not been neglected, and I have had a number of
14 guarantees of watching how the hospital has
15 grown since it has been taken over.

16 It is right what Barb Martin has
17 said previously. Had they not taken it over, I
18 am afraid of what would have happened. When I
19 watched different hospitals taking away from
20 programs because it wasn't cost efficient for
21 them, admissions weren't accomplished.

22 I have had the privilege of serving
23 in the Illinois Senate for the last 16 years,
24 and I saw what hospitals have done in this

1 county.

2 It's a positive endeavor what we
3 are going to be doing in Lindenhurst right now
4 with what Vista is going to do, because it's so
5 long overdue for a hospital here.

6 I said when I was a youth, there
7 was about 150,000 population in Lake County, and
8 the majority of that was on the east part of the
9 County.

10 I jokingly said it would take a
11 half hour or 45 minutes to get to the western
12 part of the County. It still takes a half hour
13 and 45 minutes, but it's for a different reason,
14 congestion.

15 In looking at the possibility if
16 somebody had a heart attack or anything else
17 without the proper care of trying to get to the
18 hospital only on the eastern part of the
19 County -- I know I have 30 seconds to go. I can
20 tell the time quicker than you can.

21 The point is this system has a
22 serious problem of what we are facing, and Vista
23 has answered the problem long before anybody
24 else saw the concern, and they have been

1 answering this problem for a long time.

2 I have gotten written comments here
3 about bed problems and jobs, everything else;
4 but this is a human issue.

5 We have to look at the concerns of
6 what they have done on the human issue, and I am
7 trying to express that in my heart and what they
8 have done.

9 This is coming from someone who has
10 lived here his entire life and knows this
11 county, knows what the health care situation has
12 been in this county and in my capacity I have
13 represented probably every hospital in this
14 County.

15 I tell you Vista Medical Center has
16 done the right things, moved them along the
17 right way; and I think the opportunity of having
18 this hospital under their care would be the
19 right thing for us to do, and I plead with you
20 to make the right decision at the right time.
21 Thank you.

22 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you, Senator.

23 No. 4.

24 MS. STANDISH: Hello, my name is Rebecca

1 Standish, R-e-b-e-c-c-a S-t-a-n-d-i-s-h.

2 I am a planning analyst with
3 Centegra Health System. Thank you for the
4 opportunity to speak before you today regarding
5 the Community Health Systems application to
6 establish a new hospital, Vista Medical Center,
7 Lindenhurst.

8 As we reviewed the Vista Medical
9 Center Lindenhurst application, we noted a few
10 additional items we thought would be important
11 to highlight for you.

12 One point is that while Vista
13 highlights the redistribution of and the net
14 reduction in medical/surgical/pediatric beds, it
15 avoids highlighting that there is currently no
16 need for OB beds. In fact, there is an excess
17 of 15 beds in the A-9 planning area.

18 The additional 20 beds they are
19 proposing will exacerbate the excess capacity.
20 In addition, Vista East OB beds are only 27.7
21 percent occupied.

22 The second point is that Vista does
23 not have a complete application. It neglected
24 to address two items in the review criteria

1 related to cardiac catheterization services.

2 The first component Vista did not
3 address is related to need determination in
4 Section 1100.620, which states, "No additional
5 cardiac catheterization service shall be started
6 unless each facility in the planning area
7 offering cardiac catheterization services
8 operates at a level of 400 procedures annually."

9 According to the hospital profiles
10 published on September 11, 2012, it shows that
11 Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital only performed
12 349 procedures in 2011, which is below the
13 threshold of the need determination criteria.

14 The second component it neglected
15 to address is related to the unnecessary
16 duplication of services criteria in 1110.1330,
17 which states "Any application proposing to
18 establish cardiac catheterization
19 services must indicate if it will reduce the
20 volume of existing facilities below 200
21 catheterizations.

22 Any applicant proposing the
23 establishment of cardiac catheterization
24 services must contact all facilities currently

1 providing the service within the planning area
2 in which the applicant facility is located, to
3 determine the impact the project will have on
4 the patient volume at existing services."

5 Centegra Hospital McHenry is a
6 provider of cardiac catheterization services and
7 was not contacted or asked whether the project
8 will have an impact on our existing services.

9 In fiscal year 2012, Centegra
10 performed 332 cases from the proposed Vista
11 Medical Center Lindenhurst service area.

12 If Centegra were to lose a portion
13 of these cases, it could translate into a 10
14 percent in cardiac cath volume and 624,000 in
15 contribution margin.

16 In closing, Centegra Health System
17 opposes the Vista Medical Center Lindenhurst
18 project.

19 Vista's project does not meet the
20 Review Board's criteria and has not addressed
21 all of the criteria as required by the Board's
22 rules. For these reasons the project should be
23 denied. We thank you for the opportunity to
24 provide this testimony.

1 MS. KENDRICK: No. 5.

2 MS. SCHMIDT: Good afternoon. I am Suzi
3 Schmidt, S-u-z-i S-c-h-m-i-d-t; and I represent
4 the 31st District, and I am a resident of Lake
5 Villa.

6 Before I joined the Senate in 2011,
7 I served on the Lake County Board for more than
8 20 years and as Board Chairman for about 10 of
9 those years.

10 I am pleased to be here today to
11 express my support for the hospital that Vista
12 Health System is proposing for Lindenhurst.

13 I have lived in Lake Villa Township
14 for 30 years. During that time, I have seen
15 many dramatic changes in Lake County.

16 The population has grown
17 exponentially over the years and the condition
18 of the roads and the availability of important
19 community services such as health care have not
20 always kept up.

21 This is particularly true in the
22 northwest part of Lake County. For example,
23 Antioch's population increased by more than 60
24 percent from 2000 to 2012. In that same time

1 period, Lindenhurst grew by 15 percent and just
2 last year housing permits in the village went up
3 to 22 percent.

4 We all know how difficult it is to
5 get around on our congested roads. Things
6 aren't so great, either, when it comes to access
7 to health care.

8 Right now, many of us who reside in
9 Northwestern Lake County live more than 30
10 minutes away from a hospital, and that's in good
11 traffic, with no road construction and in good
12 weather.

13 I shudder to imagine trying to get
14 to an emergency room in a driving rainstorm or
15 snowstorm during rush hour.

16 Vista's hospital in Lindenhurst
17 provide better health care access to the people
18 who live in the northwest and north central
19 regions of Lake County.

20 The Lindenhurst Hospital also is
21 another component of Vista's overall commitment
22 to provide safety net health care services to
23 medically underserved people in Lake County.

24 Some people might say that there

1 are plenty of health care options in Lake County
2 already.

3 That's easy to say if you haven't
4 lived in northwestern Lake County for many
5 years. But I have.

6 Not only that, but I have
7 represented this area for many years. I have
8 talked to my constituents about it time and time
9 again, and they have let me know that getting a
10 hospital nearby is very important. Vista has
11 heard them -- and me -- say this for many years.
12 Now, Vista is acting on it.

13 Please count me as a supporter of
14 the Lindenhurst Hospital. Thank you.

15 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you. No. 6.

16 MS. OSMOND: I am just going to submit
17 written testimony.

18 MS. AVERY: That is fine. You can state
19 your name and spell it for the court reporter
20 and state that you are submitting written
21 testimony and your position on the project.

22 MS. OSMOND: My name is JoAnn Osmond,
23 J-o-A-n-n O-s-m-o-n-d, State Representative for
24 the 61st District. And I am in favor of the

1 Project No. 12-081 and ask you to approve this
2 hospital.

3 ROWENA WERNES: My name is Rowena Wernes,
4 R-o-w-e-n-a W-e-r-n-e-s. I am with Centegra
5 Health system.

6 We are in opposition to the
7 project, and we will submit written testimony.

8 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you. No. 7.

9 MS. OSMOND: I am State representative,
10 JoAnn Osmond, J-o-A-n-n O-s-m-o-n-d.

11 I am State Representative of the
12 61st District, which includes Antioch, Lake
13 Villa, Fox Lake, Newport Township, Lindenhurst,
14 Zion, Winthrop Harbor and Beach Park and
15 Waukegan.

16 I know from personal experience and
17 by talking to constituents how important access
18 to medical care is and the hardships faced by
19 those without it.

20 That's why I can say clearly and
21 unequivocally the Vista's new hospital in
22 Lindenhurst is badly needed.

23 My late husband, State
24 Representative Tim Osmond, was a former chief of

1 the Antioch Rescue Squad.

2 In his position as Chief he spent
3 many hours of conversation with Dr. Freeland of
4 the then Victory Hospital attempting to address
5 the issue of how long a rescue squad could take
6 getting a patient stabilized and transported to
7 the nearest medical facilities. 35 minutes was
8 a good time. Not so good when you have a trauma
9 patient, delivering a baby five weeks too early
10 or a patient who is having chest pains.

11 Tim believed that having a hospital
12 in our area would address the concerns of many
13 issues.

14 Over and over again we came close,
15 but without success in having a facility with
16 funding to come forth.

17 My husband died on December 17,
18 2002 from a heart attack at our home, 35 minutes
19 away from a hospital.

20 As the minority spokesman for the
21 House Committee on Health & Healthcare
22 Disparities, and one of four co-chairs of the
23 Affordable Health Care Committee, I hear stories
24 about people who are shut out of our health care

1 system through no fault of their own.

2 During my time in office, I have
3 worked to improve the State's ability to meet
4 the health care needs of all residents.

5 It concerns me when I learn of an
6 area or population where access to medical care
7 is insufficient, but especially if that area is
8 within my own district.

9 I am including with my testimony
10 today a map that shows the imbalance of hospital
11 care in Lake County.

12 You will see a diagonal line from
13 the northeast to the southwest corners of Lake
14 County; and if you look to the right of that
15 line in the southeast, you will see all the
16 hospitals while there are none in the northwest.

17 This hospital has my full support,
18 and I am prepared to do whatever I can to help
19 make it a reality.

20 If it comes down to it, I am ready
21 to put on a hard hat and grab a shovel. I feel
22 strongly about this project because the new
23 five-story 188,000 square foot hospital serves a
24 real need and puts beds closer to patients.

1 I also believe Vista is the right
2 provider to make care in this community
3 available to all.

4 Through its support of Health Reach
5 and other programs that extend medical care to
6 the uninsured and underinsured, Vista Health
7 System has shown itself to be a good corporate
8 citizen and a valued member of our community.

9 I would be happy to see Vista
10 expand its presence in my district.

11 I think Vista's case is clear and
12 on behalf of my constituents and residents
13 across Lake County, I ask you to approve this
14 hospital. Thank you very much.

15 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you, representative.
16 No. 9.

17 MR. NEWTON: Hello. My name is Jim
18 Newton, N-e-w-t-o-n. I am a County Board
19 Representative for Lindenhurst and the new
20 hospital to be located in my district.

21 I am here to reaffirm my personal
22 support and County Board support for this
23 project.

24 What I would like to focus on most

1 is the importance of response time over profit
2 or business interests.

3 In my previous job as a reporter
4 with the Sun-Times media, I reviewed several
5 months worth of response time efforts on the
6 Lake Villa rescue squad; and in cases of
7 transports, I was able to report that several
8 patients could have watched an entire sitcom,
9 commercials and all, during this trip to the
10 hospital. This is unacceptable and needs to be
11 addressed to people in this area.

12 The current site also has health
13 added on it so that further transport in a
14 timely basis be available.

15 Also, the County Board supports it
16 for the amount of jobs it will bring to the
17 area, access for local residents, fairness
18 throughout the County; and I will be done in
19 less than two minutes. That's it. Thank you.

20 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you.

21 Do you have a written copy of your
22 testimony, Mr. Newton?

23 MR. NEWTON: No, I don't.

24 MS. KENDRICK: Okay. Skipping No. 10,

1 No. 11.

2 DR. PATEL: My name is Rashmikant Patel,
3 R-a-s-h-m-i-k-a-n-t P-a-t-e-l. I am a
4 physician, as well as a Vista Board member.

5 I can speak first-hand about the
6 need for Vista Medical Center Lindenhurst.

7 Time and again, my patients ask me
8 this question: When is a hospital coming to
9 Lindenhurst?

10 I have two offices, one in Gurnee
11 and one in Lindenhurst. My patients in
12 Lindenhurst are eager to see the new hospital
13 built because it would be on the same campus as
14 my office. With the new hospital, I would be
15 able to spend more time directly providing care
16 to my patients. That's the reason I chose to
17 practice medicine.

18 I have been a primary care
19 physician for 21 years in Lindenhurst, and I see
20 patients for many reasons.

21 Some of my patients have chronic
22 conditions, such as anemia or kidney disease,
23 that can result in various complications.
24 Sometimes they require hospitalization on short

1 notice. When this is the case, my patients from
2 the Lindenhurst area and their families are
3 forced to stay at a hospital that is 25 to 40
4 minutes from their home.

5 This region needs reasonable access
6 to treatment. The Lindenhurst hospital project
7 puts hospital beds closer to our patients while
8 increasing the types of services that patients
9 can receive.

10 I am continuously asking myself
11 what more I can do for my patients. The most
12 important thing I can do right now is express my
13 strong support for the Lindenhurst Hospital.

14 I look forward to the day I can answer
15 patients' questions about a possible new
16 hospital with an affirmative answer: "Yes. The
17 hospital will be built soon."

18 Please review board members.
19 Approve this hospital project for our patients'
20 sake. Thank you.

21 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you, Dr. Patel.
22 No. 12.

23 REVEREND HEWITT: I am Reverend Kris
24 Hewitt, K-r-i-s H-e-w-i-t-t, Pastor of Ivan

1 Congregational Church and United Church of
2 Christ in Mundelein.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to
4 speak for today's hearing and as well as the
5 community. I appreciate the opportunity here to
6 have our voices heard. I would like to voice my
7 concerns about the new hospital.

8 We have a diverse church as well as
9 all churches in Lake County are on a mission to
10 care for our neighbors, especially those in the
11 most need.

12 As part of that purpose, a hospital
13 such as the Advocate and Condell Medical Center
14 together with healthcare access and information
15 to those who otherwise would not have it.

16 This means community care, health
17 and educational events such as the flu vaccine
18 at my church, as well as the community health
19 council representatives from across the county
20 discussing reviewing the community's needs and
21 plan the strategy to meet those.

22 So many people count on the
23 hospitals for their health that we almost take
24 them for granted, but we might very well lose

1 their generous outreach if our not-for-profit
2 partners are no longer viable; and a new for
3 profit hospital in Lake County could trigger
4 that.

5 There is no question in my mind
6 that existing not-for-profit hospitals care
7 about communities they serve.

8 On the other hand, I am not as
9 comfortable for the for-profit healthcare
10 providers. That is not the reason that exist.

11 For profit health care providers
12 focus on the bottom line, not the overall health
13 of the community.

14 They exist to make money for their
15 shareholders, and their over 90 percent profit
16 margins shows they are doing a good job.

17 Another for-profit hospital will
18 only create access for those with needs. That
19 is why I ask you to consider the underserved
20 persons of this community.

21 Please help us look out for the
22 needs of residents. Please make the right
23 decision to protect the generous outreach that
24 comes from the communities existing not for

1 profits. Thank you.

2 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you. No. 13.

3 MS. MC GRATH: Hello. My name is Tracy

4 McGrath, T-r-a-c-y M-c-G-r-a-t-h. I am a

5 trustee on the Lindenhurst Village Board. I

6 have lived in Lindenhurst for about 10 years,

7 where my husband and I have raised three

8 children.

9 I am very involved in the

10 Lindenhurst community and have heard time and

11 again that residents want and need a hospital

12 that's closer to them.

13 When I served on the District 117

14 School Board and volunteered on school

15 committees, one of our concerns was, "What if a

16 student gets hurt or becomes severely ill?"

17 Lindenhurst isn't like most

18 suburbs, there's no hospital around the corner

19 or even across town. You have to go across the

20 county.

21 Right now, all Lake County

22 hospitals are located in the far east, south or

23 the southeastern parts of Lake County. No

24 wonder some people around here go to different

1 counties or even states to get care. That's
2 sad.

3 The new Vista hospital in
4 Lindenhurst will bring life-saving care to
5 northwestern and north central Lake County. The
6 hospital will fill the gap in healthcare that
7 has existed for too many years.

8 I am proud of the work Vista does.
9 Vista is a great business leader, and business
10 partner, in our community. And, Vista makes
11 this a better place to live by providing
12 services to those who need it most, regardless
13 of their ability to pay.

14 I urge the Board to approve Vista's
15 new hospital because it will provide necessary
16 access to health care for our area. Thank you.

17 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you, Ms. McGrath.
18 No. 14.

19 MR. SLAZES: Hello. My name is Frank
20 Slazes, and that's spelled F-r-a-n-k
21 S-l-a-z-e-s.

22 I have served with the Lake Villa
23 Fire Department since 1979 and have held the
24 position of Fire Chief for the last 23 years.

1 All of the firefighters and paramedics of the
2 Lake Villa First District are dedicated to
3 protecting the lives and properties of the
4 communities we serve, which includes the Village
5 of Lake Villa, the Village of Lindenhurst and
6 all of the remaining unincorporated areas of
7 Lake Villa Township.

8 I am here today to support Vista
9 Health System's plan to construct and operate a
10 new 132-bed medical facility in Lindenhurst.

11 Lake Villa Township has experienced
12 significant growth since I first joined the fire
13 department in 1979. The most recent 2010 census
14 indicates Lake Villa Township as having 40,280
15 residents.

16 Communities bordering our township
17 have also experienced similar significant
18 growth. With the growth of the population, the
19 demands of health care needs have also grown.

20 Significant increases in emergency
21 medical service calls have also increased with
22 the population growth.

23 The increased population has
24 increased daily traffic congestion and

1 subsequently increased ambulance transport times
2 which equates to increased ambulance turn-around
3 times from the hospital.

4 On average our ambulances and crews
5 are tied up for a minimum of two hours with one
6 ALS medical support.

7 It's unrealistic to expect the area
8 fire and EMS agencies to continue to transport
9 our most serious emergency patients across the
10 county.

11 Not only that, the burden becomes
12 more difficult for our fire and EMS personnel to
13 be available in our first district for the next
14 911 call for help.

15 The newly constructed Vista
16 freestanding emergency center in Lindenhurst has
17 allowed us to transport less serious patients to
18 that facility.

19 But still, the greater percentage
20 of the medical transports, are taken to full
21 service hospitals, passing that facility.

22 Ironically, approximately 30 years
23 ago, discussions were held for a possible
24 hospital location about one mile west of here on

1 the property which is commonly known as Caboose
2 Park.

3 Also, 30-plus years ago, a study
4 was completed indicating the need for outlying
5 fire stations in Lake Villa Township.

6 The construction project right next
7 door is finally becoming a reality with a new
8 fire station on the west side of our Fire
9 Protection District.

10 Now, it is also finally time for
11 the construction of a full service hospital in
12 Northwestern Lake County to provide health care
13 services to the people in need of medical
14 treatment.

15 Vista Medical Center Lindenhurst
16 would significantly reduce ambulance transport
17 times by area fire/EMS agencies.

18 With this new hospital's Level 2
19 Trauma Center, coupled with reduced transport
20 times lives can be saved. Minutes can mean the
21 difference between life and death.

22 Please support Vista's plan for a
23 new hospital in Lindenhurst. Thank you.

24 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you. No. 16.

1 MS. AVERY: The person that was on their
2 way from downtown Waukegan, is he there?

3 The lady with a purple scarf that
4 was holding the number for him? Is she in the
5 hallway?

6 A VOICE: He's not here yet.

7 MS. AVERY: Okay.

8 MS. KENDRICK: No. 17.

9 MR. VENTURI: Hello. My name is Daniel
10 Venturi. D-a-n-i-e-l V-e-n-t-u-r-i. I am the
11 Lake Villa Township Supervisor, and I am here
12 today to express my support for Vista Health
13 System's proposal to build the Vista Medical
14 Center in Lindenhurst.

15 I am happy to welcome everyone here
16 today to our Lake Villa Township West Campus
17 building.

18 In Lake Villa Township we try to do
19 everything we can to help our neighbors in need.
20 And, today there are a lot of people in need in
21 our communities.

22 For example, we have seen a growing
23 number of people to our Township Food Pantry.
24 The requests for Township general assistance and

1 emergency assistance grants are up; and, as our
2 population ages, we are seeing more seniors
3 using our senior services.

4 The same goes for health care. The
5 combination of population growth in Lake County,
6 followed by a difficult recession and high
7 unemployment, means that more people are looking
8 for health care and more people are having
9 trouble affording it. Vista Health System has
10 been a great partner in our community, providing
11 health care to all people, regardless of their
12 economic situation.

13 Vista has continually shown its
14 commitment to our community. They have built
15 the emergency center and new medical office
16 facility in Lindenhurst. This proposed medical
17 center request further reflects this commitment.
18 The proposed medical center is needed in order
19 to assure quality health care in our community
20 within a reasonable distance.

21 The proximity of a hospital is
22 crucial to those seeking care and to the family
23 and loved ones that will visit them on a daily
24 basis.

1 The Lindenhurst Medical Center will
2 provide quality convenient hospital care for
3 patients and families of Lake Villa, Antioch and
4 Round Lake and the surrounding areas. Thank
5 you.

6 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you, Mr. Venturi.
7 No. 18.

8 MR. POWIT: Good afternoon. My name is
9 Scott Power, S-c-o-t-t P-o-w-e-e-r. I am senior
10 vice president of strategic planning at Abbott
11 Healthcare. I am also a Lake County resident.

12 I would like to talk about two
13 concerns of this project. Its first concern is
14 there is no bed need in Lake County. There is
15 no need for a new hospital four years ago. This
16 proposal was denied for the second time, and
17 there is this need now.

18 The second concern is that Vista is
19 using phantom bids in its inventory to give the
20 Board the perception that it is not exacerbating
21 the bed surplus.

22 In fact, the beds that Vista is
23 proposing to shift to Lindenhurst should not
24 even be in the inventory, and they are certainly

1 not needed. It would be better for the
2 community if these beds were removed from the
3 inventory rather than being used to justify
4 unneeded cost of duplication of services.

5 Regardless of the bed need,
6 according to the Illinois Department of Public
7 Health most recent statistics, planning Area
8 A-09 Lake County has 86 more med-surg beds than
9 it needs.

10 In addition, Vista has proposed to
11 add 20 more OB-GYN beds to the planning area
12 even though there is already in excess of 15
13 beds.

14 Stated simply, there is no need for
15 new inpatient beds here. Lake County is already
16 overbedded.

17 Over time this bed surplus will be
18 exacerbated as organizations like Advocate and
19 others work on reducing unnecessary hospital
20 utilization.

21 In fact, admissions in Lake County
22 at the time were over 2,200 in the last two
23 years and metropolitan Chicago overall
24 admissions have grown by 16,000. That's the

1 equivalent of emptying an entire medium size
2 community hospital.

3 This further reinforces the lack of
4 need for this project. However, Vista is
5 claiming that it won't add to the overhead of
6 the planning area. Instead it is proposing to
7 take 100 beds from Waukegan and move them to
8 Lindenhurst.

9 Our concern is that 80 beds that
10 have been in business inventory for nearly 10
11 years have not been set up or staffed.

12 As Board members, you will recall
13 the bed inventory was quite accurate for many
14 years because hospitals often had licensed beds
15 that were going unused.

16 The Review Board several years ago
17 made a major policy change in its rules that
18 essentially implemented a use them or lose them
19 approach.

20 Most hospitals follow those rules
21 and ordered 6,000 beds removed from the
22 inventory. Advocate remove licensed beds in
23 response to these rules.

24 Had Vista been compliant with those

1 rules, these beds would have been removed from
2 the inventory long ago.

3 Instead by offering to shift these
4 beds from one site to another, Vista is
5 attempting to give a planning board comfort that
6 isn't added to the bed surplus.

7 The net effect of this strategy,
8 however, is that Vista is actually creating new
9 beds that are duplicative and costly for the
10 community.

11 Some planning board members may
12 recall that in 2007 Advocate was exploring
13 whether a new hospital was needed in this area.

14 We concluded that a better and more
15 efficient use of resources was invested in
16 Condell Medical Center.

17 Condell joined Adovcate in 2008;
18 and since that time, we have established Lake
19 County is only a Level I trauma center and
20 expanded its emergency department among other
21 investments.

22 MS. KENDRICK: 30 seconds.

23 MR. POWIT: Much is concluded in 2007.

24 There is no reason to approve Vista's plans for

1 a costly and new facility. There are already
2 excessive patient beds.

3 It will be exacerbated as health
4 care trends move away from inpatient care, and
5 we hope that the planning board sees through its
6 approval so that it transfers beds out of
7 Waukegan.

8 These are beds that shouldn't even
9 be in the inventory and should not be used to
10 justify This project.

11 We strongly encourage the planning
12 board to deny this project, which it did twice
13 in the past. Thank you.

14 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you, Mr. Powit.
15 No. 19.

16 MR. LEWIS: My name is John Lewis,
17 J-o-h-n L-e-w-i-s. I am a paramedic and fire
18 chief, and I am speaking to you today because I
19 believe everyone should have an equal
20 opportunity for quick access to life-saving
21 emergency care.

22 For more than 20 years, I have
23 served on the front lines of emergency care for
24 the Zion Fire and Rescue Department.

1 Being involved in public safety,
2 and now serving as a fire chief, it is my job as
3 Chief to ensure that all people, not just
4 residents of the City of Zion, have access to a
5 hospital emergency room as quickly as possible
6 when they need it most.

7 We are fortunate in Zion to be
8 close to Vista East Medical Center in Waukegan.
9 But not everyone in Lake County is so lucky to
10 have a hospital within a 10-minute drive.
11 Access to hospital care in Lake County is
12 dangerously unbalanced in our county with all
13 hospitals located in far east, south or
14 southeastern parts of the county.

15 This means many residents of
16 western and northwestern Lake County live 30
17 minutes or more from a hospital. That is 30
18 minutes on an easy traffic day.

19 Road construction, rush hour, and
20 sometimes just overwhelming amounts of traffic
21 impede on quick access to a hospital emergency
22 room.

23 Many people are finding it quicker
24 and easier to drive to Wisconsin for hospital

1 care. This should not have to occur.

2 We need Vista Medical Center
3 Lindenhurst to help fill this large gap in
4 access to hospital care and greatly shorten
5 emergency hospital trips for many of our
6 county's residents.

7 When you, a loved one, or friend is
8 stricken with an emergency medical incident
9 requiring an emergency room, a sense of urgency
10 overwhelms our sense of time.

11 Whether in an ambulance or private
12 vehicle, time can pass by quick enough. If an
13 opportunity presents itself to shorten the time
14 it takes for you, a loved one, or friend to
15 access emergency care in a time of need, then we
16 in good consciousness should seek that
17 opportunity.

18 I urge the Illinois Health
19 Facilities and Services Review Board to approve
20 Vista's certificate of need application to build
21 this new hospital. This project will ensure all
22 Lake County residents have access to life-saving
23 care. Thank you.

24 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you, Mr. Lewis.

1 No. 20.

2 DR. DEVRULER: Good afternoon. My name
3 is Dr. Jennifer Devrulet, J-e-n-n-i-f-e-r
4 D-e-v-r-u-l-e-r.

5 My name is Dr. Jennifer Devrulet,
6 and I specialize in internal medicine.

7 I am opposed to the new hospital.
8 Let me put it this way: My job is to serve my
9 patients, and that would be compromised if a new
10 hospital were built in Lake County. I put my
11 patients first. Keeping them healthy is my
12 priority.

13 Right now I am fortunate to have
14 the state-of-the art technology at my fingertips
15 to help me do just that.

16 As a result, my fellow physicians
17 and I have caught cancers earlier, detected
18 disease sooner and treated chronic cases with
19 greater success; but the truth is there is a
20 delicate balance of health care in Lake County.

21 The six major hospitals don't have
22 enough patients as it is. Each one is
23 underutilized according to State standards, and
24 any unnecessary and excessive hospital would

1 throw off the system making it more difficult
2 for the existing hospitals to obtain critical
3 mass of patients needed to provided the
4 technology and the care to keep our patients
5 healthy.

6 So I ask why compromise a
7 functioning health care infrastructure,
8 especially when it successfully serves 700,000
9 county residents.

10 Additionally, the services that
11 Lindenhurst would provide are basic services.
12 While they aren't important to maintain the
13 health of our Lake County residents, they are
14 readily available in existing hospitals.

15 Can we really justify a new
16 hospital to take two minutes off of travel time
17 for a tonsillectomy. Basic services will do
18 nothing to enhance the care available to area
19 patients.

20 With this in mind, I encourage the
21 Board to deny Vista's proposal. On its face a
22 new hospital might seem beneficial; but if you
23 take a deeper look, you will see that it's not.

24 Real patients and their care are at

1 stake here. In a sense it would be risking the
2 County's entire health care delivery system just
3 to bring a basic hospital and additional
4 unneeded inpatient beds closer to a smaller
5 population.

6 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you, Doctor.

7 No. 21.

8 After No. 21 we are going to take a
9 brief break for lunch for 30 minutes.

10 MR. FRIERICH: Good afternoon. Deputy
11 Chief Friedrichs of the Zion Fire Rescue
12 Department. My name is Greg Friedrich, G-r-e-g
13 F-r-i-e-d-r-i-c-h.

14 As I said, I am Greg Friedrich,
15 Deputy Chief of the Zion Fire Department, and my
16 colleagues and I are thankful that we have a
17 full service hospital within five miles of our
18 city.

19 Ten minutes. That, roughly, is the
20 time it takes to get from Zion to Vista Medical
21 Center in Waukegan.

22 If there is an emergency, we know
23 our ability to transfer emergent care is
24 improved because a hospital is always nearby.

1 More than 20 minutes. That's how
2 long it takes to get from Vista's Lindenhurst
3 medical campus to the nearest hospital. That
4 distance alone shows that there is a need for
5 this new hospital.

6 30 to 45 minutes or more, that's
7 the amount of time it takes some fire and rescue
8 ambulances in west and northwestern Lake County
9 to travel to the nearest hospital.

10 As a first responder, I know I
11 would rather be close to a hospital because it
12 gives the patient in the ambulance a better
13 chance.

14 It's tough to think about this, but
15 put yourself into this situation: Imagine
16 you're a patient in an ambulance, 45 minutes
17 away from the hospital, and your condition
18 deteriorates. We might not get you to a
19 hospital in time, or how about if you are the
20 spouse or child of the patient following the
21 ambulance in your car. All you can do is hope
22 your husband, wife, mother or father's condition
23 can be maintained during the 45-minute ride.

24 In the two minutes I have talked

1 today, I hope I have given you a clearer picture
2 of why this new hospital will save lives.

3 Please approve this project. Thank
4 you.

5 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you, Mr. Friedrich.

6 MS. AVERY: It's 12:30 right now. We
7 will reconvene at 1:00 o'clock. Thank you.

8 (WHEREUPON, a lunch recess was
9 had at 12:30 p.m., after which
10 the public hearing resumed at 1:00
11 p.m. as follows:)

12 MS. KENDRICK: Good afternoon. We will
13 resume testimony again. Good afternoon.

14 I would just like to reiterate we
15 would like to stick to the two-minute testimony
16 limit so that we can get everyone to speak
17 today.

18 We will be ending at 2:30. So just
19 be aware, it's not because I like to cut people
20 off, it's because I want to make sure of that
21 everyone gets time to give testimony.

22 Please be aware if you submit
23 written testimony, that will be included in the
24 record and distributed to all of the Board

1 members.

2 So, if you have long, written
3 testimony maybe you could also submit the
4 written testimony and put that in the record.

5 We will begin again with No. 22.
6 Please remember to spell your name for the court
7 reporter.

8 MS. TALLARICO: Good afternoon,
9 Mr. Sewell, Ms. Avery, members of the audience.
10 I am Dominica Tallarico, D-o-m-i-n-i-c-a
11 T-a-l-l-a-r-i-c-o, President of Advocate Condell
12 Medical Center.

13 Our hospital has the opportunity to
14 serve many residents of this community and
15 certainly Lake County.

16 We take this responsibility to
17 seriously and strive to provide our communities
18 with the best possible health care available.

19 Having only recently begun my
20 responsibilities at Condell, it would admittedly
21 be more exciting to be the hospital president
22 proposing a new facility than the one opposing,
23 but the fun position is not always the correct
24 position.

1 I am here today because I truly
2 believe that the proposed hospital is
3 inconsistent with our collective mission of
4 stewards over the health care system, which is
5 better for Lake County, non-emergency hospital
6 care that is five minutes closer or 115 million
7 less expensive.

8 No. 1 hospitals must do more and
9 better with less.

10 The nation is just beginning one of
11 the biggest health care reformations in my
12 lifetime. Of course, I'm young.

13 The nation's severe financial
14 constraints will force health care providers to
15 do more with less.

16 We see, and feel, those reductions
17 in Illinois where the State this year was forced
18 to reduce Medicaid expenses by 2.7 billion no
19 matter which reform programs you may have
20 favored, virtually no health care reform
21 proposal has argued that the solution to the
22 nation's health care problem is to build more
23 suburban hospitals.

24 This proposed new hospital runs

1 counter to where health care is going, and to
2 where it should go. Our health care system
3 cannot afford this new hospital and it should
4 not be built.

5 No. 2, what has changed: Vista has
6 previously proposed and the Review Board has
7 previously rejected twice a new hospital in
8 Lindenhurst. Has anything changed since that
9 time that now justifies a new hospital?

10 A, is there a new need for an
11 additional hospital? No. The Review Board
12 inventory shows a surplus of 101 med/surg and OB
13 beds in the area.

14 B, is there new need for emergency
15 services? No. Since the Board's denial of the
16 new hospital, two new freestanding emergency
17 centers have been built, including one in
18 Lindenhurst.

19 C, is the area population growth so
20 fast that existing hospitals can't keep up? No.
21 Any population increase is more than offset by
22 the drop in inpatient utilization.

23 Lake County hospitals have
24 experienced a 3 percent decline in inpatient

1 utilization in the past two years, and the new
2 hospital proposed service area has experienced a
3 5.2 percent decline in inpatient utilization.
4 Last year Lake County hospitals had fewer
5 patient days than in 2008.

6 D, are existing hospitals so full
7 that patients don't have access to care? No.
8 Virtually every hospital in Lake County is
9 operating below the Review Board's target
10 utilization.

11 E, has Vista so filled its existing
12 hospitals and facilities that they have no
13 capacity? No. Vista East operates at only 39
14 percent capacity for med/surg, 27 percent
15 capacity for obstetrics and zero percent
16 utilization of pediatrics.

17 The hospital proposing to build a
18 new hospital in Lake County is the hospital with
19 the lowest utilization.

20 F, has Vista fulfilled their
21 commitment to invest 70 million in improvements
22 to the Vista Waukegan facilities? No. Vista
23 made commitments to the Lake County and Waukegan
24 area residents to improve the existing hospital

1 facilities and this commitment has not been met.
2 Why would we then approve diverting these scarce
3 health dollars to another project?

4 3, the health care delivery model
5 is clearly moving away from new hospitals to
6 ambulatory care.

7 The health care trend is clearly
8 moving care toward outpatient services and
9 reserving in-patient hospitalization for the
10 most complex care.

11 This is not only more convenient to
12 patients, it is more cost effective.

13 In the last several years you have
14 seen hospitals establish an extensive array of
15 outpatient services including a new freestanding
16 emergency center in Lindenhurst.

17 All of these efforts have brought
18 additional health care into the communities.
19 Please don't be fooled into thinking improved
20 health care access requires a new hospital.

21 No. 4, unnecessary duplication of
22 services: One of the primary duties of the
23 Review Board is to prevent unnecessary
24 duplication of services. Some would say never

1 mind. Let the hospitals compete and fight it
2 out. There are good reasons that it is unwise.
3 A new hospital in the near proximity to
4 hospitals not fully utilized causes considerable
5 harm.

6 Existing hospitals require
7 sufficient volume to cover their fixed costs.
8 Within a given area there are only so many
9 babies to deliver or surgical procedures to
10 perform. A new hospital does not create new
11 demand, it only redistributes and dilutes the
12 volume among existing providers.

13 Without sufficient patients,
14 hospitals do not have the resources available to
15 invest for the future, cover the cost of the
16 patients who cannot afford care, or increase the
17 quality of its care.

18 Let's be clear, this proposed
19 hospital will significantly harm existing
20 service providers and affect the quality of care
21 given.

22 One of the Review Board's core
23 review criteria is that the applicant document
24 that the proposed project will not lower the

1 utilization rates of any existing provider below
2 the target occupancy.

3 This section of a CON application
4 is really one of the most substantial. Instead,
5 in this application, Vista simply states, "This
6 review criterion quite obviously cannot be met."

7 Vista is correct. This project
8 will quite obviously lower others' utilization
9 and cannot be met. So, I ask Vista, "How much
10 will you lower the utilization at my hospital?"

11 How many patients and jobs will you
12 take from your own hospitals in Waukegan? If
13 Vista does not answer my questions, Mr. Sewell,
14 Ms. Avery, the Board's rules at least obligate
15 Vista to tell you the answer to those questions.

16 No. 5, Assuring quality of care:
17 Clinical studies show that increased volume
18 relates to improved care and health outcomes for
19 patients. Any knowledgeable patient wants to
20 inquire about the depth of a physician's
21 experience.

22 Particularly knowledgeable
23 patients, like most people in this room, would
24 also want to know about the experience, training

1 and certifications of the nurses and the rest of
2 the surgical team.

3 Would you want to have your
4 procedure performed by a facility that does the
5 procedure once a week, or twice a day? We have
6 several accomplished physicians and surgeons who
7 can well explain how volume affects clinical
8 outcomes. I believe that you would agree that
9 quality counts.

10 MS. KENDRICK: 30 seconds.

11 MS. TALLARICO: No. 6, unnecessary
12 hospital construction is not economic
13 development.

14 In today's economy I am very
15 appreciative of the desire for new jobs.
16 Unfortunately, this project does not create new
17 permanent jobs.

18 I am sure that proponents for this
19 hospital will argue that this project is
20 economic development.

21 There are only so many patients
22 requiring in-patient hospital services. Moving
23 patients from one hospital to another does not
24 create jobs, it merely moves them around

1 inefficiently.

2 Like using tax dollars to construct
3 a bridge to nowhere, using health care dollars
4 to construct an unnecessary hospital, is an
5 imprudent use of scarce resources for only
6 temporary gain.

7 In conclusion, I truly believe that
8 none of us charged with being stewards over
9 health care resources, including the Health
10 Facilities and Services Review Board, can
11 conclude that this new project is a responsible
12 use of our health care resources. Thank you.

13 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you. No. 23.

14 DR. THAIN: My first is Dennis,
15 D-e-n-n-i-s last named Thain, T-h-a-i-n; and I
16 practice family medicine in northwestern Lake
17 County.

18 My name is Dr. Dennis Thain, and I
19 practice family medicine in northwestern Lake
20 County.

21 Northwestern and north central Lake
22 County desperately need an in-patient full
23 service hospital, which is why I support the
24 Vista Medical Center Lindenhurst project.

1 The well-being of my patients is my
2 top concern. A hospital in Lindenhurst would
3 give my patients quicker access to emergency
4 care, which is critical. Every minute counts in
5 a medical emergency.

6 The 30 to 45-minute drives my
7 patients endure to get to a hospital are not
8 acceptable.

9 The Lindenhurst medical campus is a
10 tremendous asset to northwestern Lake County.
11 But it can be dramatically enhanced by offering
12 inpatient services.

13 With the infrastructure already in
14 place, it makes sense to add a full-service
15 hospital. I urge you to consider health care
16 access for all Lake County residents.

17 Please approve Vista Medical Center
18 Lindenhurst.

19 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you, Doctor. i
20 No. 24.

21 DR. HYMAN: My name is Bruce, B-r-u-c-e,
22 Hyman, H-y-m-a-n.

23 I am Dr. Bruce Hyman, and I
24 practice at Condell Medical Center. I am

1 currently the president of the medical staff at
2 Condell.

3 I am here not only for my staff but
4 for 700-plus physicians that are on staff at
5 Condell Medical Center.

6 I have resided in Lake County for
7 over 18 years and have practiced at Condell for
8 over 16 years.

9 Patients in my practice reside not
10 only throughout Lake County, but also northern
11 Cook County, McHenry County and Southern
12 Wisconsin.

13 Over the years my patients have
14 utilized health care throughout their county and
15 have never voiced any issues about the inability
16 to access care. The acute and chronic care have
17 always been well-served.

18 Currently the county is served by
19 Condell Medical Center, which is only 11 miles
20 from the proposed new location and Northwestern
21 Lake Forest Hospital, North Shore University,
22 Highland Park, Vista Medical Center East,
23 Advocate, Good Shepherd Hospital.

24 Also in McHenry County Centegra

1 Hospital is only about 15 miles from the
2 proposed location, and St. Catherine's Medical
3 Center and Aurora Medical Center are both in
4 Wisconsin and are 13 to 15 miles away.

5 The county is also served by two
6 freestanding emergency rooms, the Vista location
7 currently, which is also a freestanding E.R.
8 surgery center, and a professional building with
9 offices; and the same is true for Lake Villa's
10 facility, which is only six miles from the
11 proposed location. To date these facilities
12 have met the needs of all residents of Lake
13 County.

14 As you are aware, the practice of
15 medicine in both notably primary care has
16 changed dramatically over the last five years.

17 The transformation has rapidly
18 evolved with the advent of accountable care.
19 Health services which is a population-based
20 health care are the priority. This is a marked
21 change from the past.

22 With these changes in reduced
23 hospital admissions have improved
24 community-based services.

1 As a direct result of this new
2 model, the County does not need a new hospital
3 with additional beds.

4 If beds were added, there would be
5 a major impact on patient care. Not only would
6 there be an unnecessary duplication of services,
7 but it would also be a negative impact on
8 specialized medical services, trauma, cardiac
9 surgery and neurosurgery like neonatology and
10 immunology, oncology to name a few.

11 Plain and simple, there is no
12 shortage of medical care here. Don't put
13 patients in jeopardy by having an excessive and
14 unneeded patient facility to the Lake County
15 landscape.

16 If a new facility is added where no
17 need exists, then impaired health care
18 infrastructure will crumble, and clearly there
19 is no need here, not for an entirely new
20 hospital.

21 I would like to leave you with a
22 concept of two health care experts. One is
23 Dr. Berwyn, the former head of CNS, which is
24 Medicare. He stated in October of this year the

1 time has come to stop adding hospital beds and
2 to redeploy our resources into the community.

3 The second is by Pat Sevelle, the
4 Secretary of Health and Human Services who said
5 two weeks ago, successful population based
6 health care over the next two to three years
7 will need to reduce the preop visits that lead
8 to hospitalizations.

9 Unnecessary expenditures on adding
10 acute care beds can be used for further
11 improvements of community based medical
12 services. Thank you.

13 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you, Doctor.
14 No. 25.

15 Dr. Hyman, were you responsible for
16 the map?

17 DR. HYMAN: Yes.

18 MS. KENDRICK: Can we move it?

19 DR. LOTTIS: Hi. I am Dr. Wendy Logts,
20 L-o-g-t-s. I am currently president of the
21 Vista Health Systems Medical staff. I am also
22 on staff at Lake Forest Hospital and Advocate
23 Condell.

24 I am pleased to see so many Vista

1 doctors and private physicians who send their
2 patients to Vista here today to show their
3 support for Vista's certificate of need to build
4 a new hospital in Lindenhurst.

5 There is one common thread to all
6 of our testimony, and that is this hospital is
7 first and foremost about the patients.

8 We want to be able to provide
9 life-saving and life-sustaining medical care for
10 residents in the North Central Northwestern Lake
11 County.

12 As a pediatrician here for more
13 than 19 years, I automatically think of the
14 children in these areas.

15 What if the child is injured in an
16 accident, a sporting event or suffering from a
17 sudden severe illness. What if it's not a
18 child?

19 My husband was injured in our yard
20 in Gurnee in October of 2002. He broke both
21 bones in his ankle and dislocated it. The
22 Gurnee paramedics arrived in less than five
23 minutes; however, it was more then 30 minutes
24 from our home to St. Therese Hospital, and our

1 home is two minutes from the Vista proposed
2 site.

3 If it would have been relocated
4 within 60 minutes of the injury, we are told he
5 would have had less nerve damage. Unfortunately
6 that wasn't possible.

7 As doctors who see many advantages
8 to building a hospital in Vista's medical campus
9 in Lindenhurst, the campus has already had some
10 of the components of the hospital, including a
11 freestanding emergency center, which will become
12 a Level 2 trauma center, diagnostic labs and
13 other state-of-the art services, too.

14 Now, it just needs the hospital
15 beds to provide ongoing care in an area that has
16 been desperate for a near live hospital.

17 On behalf of our Vista physicians
18 and those in private practice who have
19 privileges at Vista as well as our nursing and
20 staff, I ask that you let Vista shift some of
21 its hospital beds from Vista Medical Center East
22 to Lindenhurst.

23 Please approve this much deserved
24 certificate of need for a new hospital. Thank

1 you.

2 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you, Doctor.

3 No. 26.

4 DR. MALONEY: Dr. William Maloney,

5 W-i-l-l-i-a-m M-a-l-o-n-e-y.

6 Good afternoon. My name is

7 Dr. William Maloney. I have been an emergency

8 physician for 21 years and am currently the

9 Chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at

10 Advocate Condell Medical Center here in Lake

11 County.

12 I worked all night; and after

13 giving this testimony, I am going to bed as I am

14 working again tonight. I mention this because

15 despite my schedule, I came to the hearing today

16 because I am very concerned that this hospital

17 proposal would affect the quality of emergency

18 care available here in our county.

19 As you may know, Condell is one of

20 only 18 Level I Trauma Centers in Illinois, and

21 it is the only Level I Trauma Center in Lake

22 County.

23 Among the reasons why there are so

24 few Level I Trauma Centers are that they require

1 a great concentration of specialist care, and
2 they are very expensive to operate.

3 At Condell, we provide this service
4 because it is vital to Lake County residents.
5 We see nearly 1,500 local trauma patients every
6 year.

7 Many of these patients are our most
8 serious cases, require the most emergent
9 attention, and would not live without this level
10 of care.

11 This includes patients who have
12 suffered severe car or motorcycle accidents, but
13 falls, violent attacks, and more.

14 Before Condell earned Level I
15 status in 2009, ambulances or helicopters were
16 forced to take these patients much further away,
17 as far as Chicago or Milwaukee.

18 Now, patients can get this critical
19 care, which is frequently life-saving, much more
20 quickly.

21 It is also a significant advantage
22 for the friends and families of our patients who
23 do not need to travel as far to visit their
24 loved ones.

1 It is an enormous benefit to the
2 Lake County community to have this resource
3 right in their backyard, and I am sure everyone
4 can agree that is a resource that they would
5 like to keep for the long term.

6 Fortunately for Lake County
7 residents, they are not among the 45 million
8 Americans without access to a Level I or Level
9 II trauma center within the golden hour after
10 they experience a traumatic event.

11 I am concerned, however, that this
12 resource and the well-being of those who live
13 and work in Lake County is in jeopardy. No
14 question, a new hospital in Lindenhurst would
15 have a negative impact on Condell.

16 I support the idea that everyone
17 should have access to healthcare, but not at the
18 cost of others, especially not when it could
19 potentially come at the cost of a Level I trauma
20 center.

21 Condell was able to attract a
22 number of highly trained specialists to our
23 medical staff because these physicians knew they
24 would have enough patient volume due to our

1 trauma center designation.

2 Stripping away some of that volume
3 will leave us vulnerable to the possibility that
4 some of those specialists, including pelvic
5 surgeons, neurosurgeons, spine specialists,
6 could leave our staff, and relocate to a
7 different region where there are enough trauma
8 patients to allow them to maintain their
9 practices.

10 As a medical professional, I can
11 tell you this would hurt not only the immediate
12 community, but the entire region.

13 It is critical that healthcare
14 centers and hospitals collectively provide a
15 broad spectrum of services.

16 Maintaining this delicate balance
17 relies on Lake County residents having access to
18 a Level I Trauma Center. I believe upsetting
19 this balance may cost lives that the region is
20 now able to save.

21 Thank you for the opportunity to
22 share my thoughts and concerns. I urge you to
23 take a close look at the proposal and consider
24 the negative consequences that would result from

1 it. Healthcare is not about quantity, it's
2 about quality. Thank you.

3 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you, Dr. Maloney.
4 No. 27.

5 DR. SCHEER: My name is Michael Scheer,
6 S-c-h-e-e-r. And thanks for allowing me to
7 present to the Board. My letter is for the
8 record. I just want to make a few comments.

9 My name is Michael Scheer, and I am
10 a general surgeon. I have been in practice here
11 for 17 years.

12 I am in support of Vista Health
13 System's proposal for the new hospital in
14 Lindenhurst. I have been on the staff of Lake
15 Forest off and on for the past was 10 or 12
16 years. I am not currently on staff. I was on
17 staff at St. Therese until it closed due to
18 repair in 2005.

19 I just came from Condell probably
20 just like Dr. Maloney. It took me 30 minutes to
21 get here at noontime. I thought I would be
22 late; however, the traffic is light and I drive
23 a little fast. I didn't run any red lights or
24 stop signs; however, and I didn't get hit by any

1 trains. So I made it here on time, my point
2 being it takes a long time to get here from
3 Condell.

4 It takes even longer to get here
5 from Vista and longer from Lake Forest. The
6 people that live out here deserve to have a
7 hospital out here within 30 minutes of their
8 home.

9 Location is the primary goal in
10 real estate, and location of a hospital in
11 Lindenhurst would just be an incredible benefit
12 to the patients who live out here.

13 I have taken care of them for many
14 years. Those patients are from Antioch and
15 Spring Grove and Richmond. I have been going to
16 Lindenhurst Surgery Center for 13 years since it
17 opened in 1999.

18 I take care of patients out there,
19 and I do it because it's convenient for them.
20 It's very, very difficult for them to drive 45
21 minutes to an hour to get to a hospital for
22 surgery and then have to stay afterward and then
23 drive 45 minutes home with rush hour in the
24 morning and rush hour in the evening; and I feel

1 bad for those fire chiefs and the paramedics who
2 have to drive 45 minutes from Antioch to Condell
3 or Vista with a patient who is having chest pain
4 or is in cardiac arrest, and they are doing CPR.

5 As a general surgeon practicing in
6 Lake County for the past 17 years, I have seen
7 tremendous growth in Lake County, especially in
8 the northwest.

9 I see many patients on a daily
10 basis from the Antioch, Spring Grove, Richmond
11 and Fox Lake areas and even patients from the
12 Wisconsin cities of Bristol, Trevor and Twin
13 Lakes.

14 Patients travel to my office for
15 preoperative consultations and then are
16 scheduled for surgery at one of the local
17 community hospitals where I have admitting and
18 surgical privileges, either Vista Medical Center
19 East in Waukegan or Condell Medical Center in
20 Libertyville.

21 If the surgery can be performed as
22 an outpatient, I recommend that it be performed
23 at the Surgery and Treatment Center in
24 Lindenhurst, the same site as the proposed new

1 hospital facility.

2 There are several reasons for this
3 recommendation, the most immediate being the
4 travel time savings for the patients and their
5 families.

6 From the locations above and the
7 surrounding areas, it currently takes 45 minutes
8 to one hour to reach any of the Lake County
9 hospitals during rush hour and with
10 construction.

11 From those same areas it takes less
12 than 30 minutes to reach the Surgery and
13 Treatment Center in Lindenhurst.

14 It is quite clear to me that the
15 residents of northern Lake County and southern
16 Wisconsin are in need of available inpatient and
17 emergency hospital care.

18 I also take calls from the Vista
19 Lindenhurst Emergency room. This ER has been
20 steadily increasing in volume and admits
21 patients to the local hospitals on a daily
22 basis.

23 Patients with life-threatening
24 emergencies need to have access to a

1 full-service hospital.

2 With the expanding population of
3 northwestern Lake County and southern Wisconsin,
4 we will see more trauma and more emergencies.
5 Where are these patients going to go?

6 A Level II trauma center at the
7 proposed site on the border of Lindenhurst and
8 Lake Villa will serve this population well now
9 and in the future.

10 In closing, I completely support
11 Vista Medical Center Lindenhurst as being best
12 for my patients, for the local communities, and
13 for Lake County, as well.

14 So, I urge the Board to consider a
15 full service hospital here in Lindenhurst. I
16 testified in 2008 for this because I think it's
17 a good thing for the patients who live in this
18 area.

19 I am on staff at all of the
20 hospitals, so it doesn't make any difference to
21 me as a practitioner. It does make a
22 difference, though, to those patients who live
23 out here and competition is a good thing, not a
24 bad thing. It makes everyone better.

1 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you, Doctor.

2 No. 28.

3 MS. BALDWIN: Hi. I am Ms. Baldwin. I
4 am Manager of Planning for Advocate Condell
5 Medical Center.

6 I am here to read testimony from
7 Kattie Kerrigan who is the Founder and CEO of
8 Kathryn Kerrigan, Inc., who is a local
9 independent business woman.

10 MS. KENDRICK: Please spell your name for
11 the record and yours as well for the record.

12 MS. BALDWIN: Sure. My first name is
13 Mynde, M-y-n-d-e, last name Baldwin,
14 B-a-l-d-w-i-n.

15 Katie is K-a-t-i-e, Kerrigan,
16 K-e-r-r-i-g-a-n.

17 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you.

18 MS. BALDWIN: "My name is Katie Kerrigan,
19 and I am the founder and CEO of Kathryn
20 Kerrigan, Inc., an independent shoe business
21 here in Lake County.

22 I oppose Vista's proposal for
23 reasons that are very personal. I grew up in
24 this town and have close ties with the

1 community.

2 As an active member of Main Street
3 Libertyville, I am also concerned about the
4 overall economic well-being of our town and
5 those who call it home.

6 Advocate Condell is indispensable
7 to local residents. That includes my clients
8 and fellow business owners. It's the largest
9 employer in Libertyville. It's our go-to- for
10 top-of-the-line healthcare. And it has made our
11 town what it is today.

12 I would hate to see us sacrifice
13 all of that. We cannot empty our community
14 hospital just to fill another one down the
15 street. That doesn't make sense.

16 We also cannot let ourselves be
17 swayed by Vista's argument that a new hospital
18 would create new jobs.

19 In truth, it would just shuffle
20 existing jobs from one hospital to another,
21 putting people out of work in the process. That
22 doesn't help anyone.

23 Also, I ask myself, what will
24 happen to Vista's existing Waukegan hospital

1 when Vista moves into the proposed new and shiny
2 hospital? Will they just abandon the campus?

3 My clients and neighbors are also
4 my family. We depend on Advocate Condell, for
5 our health and as an economic engine in this
6 town. Please don't take that away from us. I
7 ask you to review Vista's application very
8 carefully. Thank you.

9 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you. No. 29.

10 DR. HAMMING: Good afternoon. My name is
11 Dr. Edward Hamming, E-d-w-a-r-d H-a-m-m-i-n-g.

12 I have been an orthopaedic surgeon
13 for more than 30 years. I strongly believe that
14 it's necessary to build a hospital in
15 Lindenhurst that provides better health care
16 access to the residents of Lake County.

17 As senior partner of Illinois Bone
18 and Joint Institute, I am deeply committed to
19 the residents of Lake County.

20 The residents deserve to have a new
21 hospital in Lindenhurst because the region has a
22 large population that must travel outside the
23 area to receive care.

24 Depending on the traffic and the

1 time of day, the commute could take up to an
2 hour.

3 The two freestanding emergency
4 centers in the region, Lindenhurst and
5 Grayslake, are very limited as to what problems
6 they can treat.

7 Many people arrive at the centers
8 for treatment and have to be transferred to a
9 regular hospital. This is a considerable waste
10 of time, costs a lot of extra money and isn't
11 pleasant for the patient.

12 I perform many surgeries at Vista
13 East in Waukegan, and I can attest to the
14 excellent medical care that Vista Health System
15 provides to its patients.

16 Therefore, I fully support the
17 addition of a new hospital for the people of
18 north central and northwestern Lake County.

19 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you, Dr. Hamming.

20 DR. FRANOSZEK: My name is Jack
21 Franoszek, J-a-c-k F-r-a-n-o-s-z-e-k. I am the
22 Medical Director of Emergency Services at both
23 Northwestern, Lake Forest Hospital and
24 Northwestern Grays Lake.

1 I am here today not as a medical
2 director, but as a practicing emergency
3 physician.

4 I urge the Illinois Health
5 Facilities and Services Review Board to look
6 closely at the patient volume for Vista
7 emergency rooms before approving another full
8 service hospital in Lake County.

9 Now, why would I be concerned about
10 that? The reason is I am concerned about the
11 increase in number of patients leaving Waukegan
12 and its community neighborhood emergency
13 department of Vista to drive all the way to Lake
14 Forest and Grays Lake for emergency care. This
15 is a distance of 11.6 miles from Waukegan to
16 Lake Forest and 7.4 miles from Waukegan to Grays
17 Lake.

18 Now, as a for-profit hospital
19 Vista's mission may be different -- I recognize
20 that -- than other not-for-profit hospitals in
21 Lake County.

22 But what I am hearing patients say
23 is that they are asking to ante up co-pays for
24 surgical procedures and E.R. care, up front cash

1 on the barrel head. The practice is not typical
2 of a not-for-profit hospital, and I believe this
3 may be actually encouraging uninsured patients
4 to leave Waukegan to get their care elsewhere.

5 Yes, if you have ovarian carcinoma
6 on your CAT scan, but please seek care and
7 treatment for somewhere else.

8 Vista has claimed that there are
9 long wait times in their emergency room, and it
10 advertises them pledging 30 minutes or far less
11 for emergency visits on their web site.

12 A billboard on my drive here said
13 15 minutes, but patients tell us they could
14 visit our hospitals and freestanding emergency
15 center that they don't want to wait for care.

16 This in my mind represents a
17 conflict when it comes to serving the
18 communities health care means.

19 Moreover, in its application Vista
20 health says that a new hospital would improve
21 emergency access for their patients.

22 Well, as it has been referenced
23 before, we had two freestanding emergency rooms,
24 one of them on the exact site of the proposed

1 new hospital.

2 In fact, most of the patients in
3 this county already have access and less than 15
4 minutes to emergency care, that time frame being
5 the gold standard.

6 Both freestanding facilities in the
7 area have room to grow. The Vista freestanding
8 emergency center has approximately seven examine
9 rooms which indicates a capacity of 14,000
10 visits, yet they are only seeing 9,000 patients
11 in the Lindenhurst facility annually now.

12 But the numbers from the
13 freestanding application by Vista have not yet
14 being attained.

15 So, approval of the new hospital on
16 the grounds of lack of emergency access is
17 simply not to the point.

18 MS. KENDRICK: 30 seconds.

19 DR. FRANOSZEK: I encourage the Health
20 Facilities and Services Board to thoughtfully
21 consider this Lindenhurst application and its
22 negative impact on the other health care
23 facilities in the region and in the light of my
24 concerns. Thank you for the opportunity to make

1 these comments.

2 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you, Doctor.

3 No. 31.

4 DR. ABDERHOLDEN: Good afternoon. My
5 name is Guy Abderholden, A-b-d-e-r-h-o-l-d-e-n,
6 and I was born and raised in Antioch, Illinois.

7 I have been a family physician for
8 the last 20 years at Orchard Medical Center in
9 Antioch, Illinois. The practice was founded by
10 my father Dr. Ed Abderholden in 1958. He worked
11 as a general practitioner for 39 years and was
12 very active in the community and with Victory
13 and St. Therese Hospital.

14 The Antioch community has always
15 been well-minded about health care needs for all
16 its residents.

17 The first certified paramedics in
18 all the State of Illinois were members of the
19 complete volunteer rescue squad.

20 In the 1970's my father and other
21 physicians foresaw the health needs in the area
22 and pushed for a hospital in Lake Villa,
23 Illinois called Countryside hospital. But their
24 vision was never realized.

1 Now 40 years later we are still
2 debating an issue that past community members
3 were able to foresee back then.

4 And now it is more evident the
5 needs of this part of the county.

6 The Archdiocese sees this area as
7 growing and has opened a new parish called
8 St. Raphale The Archangel in Antioch, Illinois,
9 even with St. Peters parish thriving in downtown
10 Antioch.

11 But State officials for some reason
12 do not see what everyone else sees. Hospitals
13 across the border see the needs of our community
14 and are buying practices and taking patients,
15 jobs and services and money out of our state and
16 into Wisconsin.

17 I support a hospital in
18 Lindenhurst, Illinois because it will serve the
19 community and neighboring towns.

20 People will get quick and
21 life-saving services and be able to be close to
22 family, friends and neighbors.

23 Often people from Antioch, Illinois
24 are taken to Wisconsin hospitals or driving

1 themselves due to proximity.

2 Unfortunately continuity of care is
3 lost because their primary physicians are not on
4 staff at these hospitals and follow up with a
5 sup-specialist is lost because these doctors do
6 not know us and worse we do not know them.

7 I have testified in the past in
8 favor of a new facility in Lindenhurst, Illinois
9 and I am more convinced and committed to see
10 that this becomes a reality. Thank you very
11 much.

12 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you, Doctor.

13 No. 32.

14 MR. GORDON: Hello. My name is Trent
15 Gordon, and I am the Director of Business
16 Development at Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital
17 in Barrington, and I am here to voice Advocate
18 Good Shepherd's opposition to the Vista
19 application.

20 Good Shepherd is located in Lake
21 County and in the same planning area as the
22 proposed project.

23 One thing that has not been
24 mentioned is that this application was

1 previously denied by the Board less than five
2 years ago.

3 The Board denied the application
4 because the hospital did not meet the Board's
5 rules. Has that much significantly changed over
6 those five years to warrant the Board reversing
7 their decision?

8 However, let me take my
9 professional hat off and speak to you as a
10 resident of Grayslake, which is located on the
11 other side of the line referenced by Vista.

12 My family and I moved to Grayslake
13 over 10 years ago, and at that time I was not
14 working for Advocate.

15 I can assure you as a resident of
16 central Lake County that I have ample access to
17 health care resources. Let me give you an
18 example.

19 There are five freestanding
20 emergency centers in the state, living in
21 Grayslake I live less than 10 minutes from two
22 of those freestanding emergency centers.

23 One is Lake Forest's emergency
24 center in Grayslake and one is Vista's

1 freestanding center in Lindenhurst. Numerous
2 people have talked about the need for access to
3 nearby critical care.

4 Critical care is what freestanding
5 emergency centers provide. Should I have a need
6 for critical services I can stay within my
7 hometown or drive 10 minutes to Vista's FED or
8 drive south to Advocate Condell in Libertyville.

9 But let me go back to north central
10 Lake County and the health care services located
11 in north central Lake County.

12 Not only are there emergency
13 services in Lindenhurst, there's an ambulatory
14 surgery center in Lindenhurst.

15 If I need surgery, I don't need to
16 leave my community to get that surgical
17 procedure done.

18 If I need access to an imaging
19 study like a CT, MRI or x-ray, I can go to the
20 Lake Forest Grayslake campus or drive 10 minutes
21 north to Lindenhurst, or again to the south to
22 Advocate Condell. This is an area already rich
23 in healthcare services.

24 So, In summary, there are more

1 powerful reasons to vote against this project
2 than there are to vote for this project.

3 I ask that you deny this project.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you. November
6 No. 33.

7 MR. FORMICH: Matt, M-a-t-t, Formich,
8 F-o-r-m-i-c-h with the Village of Lindenhurst.
9 Mayor Susan Lahr could not be with us today.
10 That's S-u-s-a-n L-a-h-r. She has asked me to
11 read on her behalf her testimony.

12 "On behalf of the residents of
13 Lindenhurst, I would like to start by saying how
14 grateful I am to Vista for its determination and
15 its vision.

16 Vista's vision for many years has
17 been to build a medical campus in Lindenhurst
18 that includes a full-service hospital.

19 Why? Because Vista is determined
20 to improve health care access for a large
21 section of Lake County that does not have a
22 hospital nearby.

23 The last time I testified at a
24 Review Board hearing about a Vista project, it

1 was for the freestanding emergency center in
2 Lindenhurst.

3 At that hearing more than two years
4 ago, we heard a lot of positive testimony about
5 what the emergency center would do, but we also
6 heard some negative.

7 Some people tried to convince the
8 Review Board that this center would be a bad
9 thing for Lake County.

10 Guess what? The emergency center
11 is a smashing success. Vista is on track to get
12 12,000 visits to the center this year. Just
13 think about it. That's hundreds of people each
14 month who are spared a 25, 30 or 45-minute drive
15 each way to the nearest hospital.

16 Now, we have a chance to do more --
17 much more. Vista's new hospital will
18 dramatically improve health care for thousands
19 of people.

20 It's not just about saving lives,
21 although that is the top reason. It's also
22 about access to care for the elderly and poor
23 who might need to take public transportation to
24 hospitals many miles away.

1 Our community and region are still
2 growing. For example, our housing permits went
3 up by 22 percent last year.

4 With that growth, we need to plan
5 for the future. Our motto "Developing today for
6 tomorrow" fits perfectly with Vista's vision for
7 its medical campus.

8 We, like Vista, are determined to
9 improve access to health care for western and
10 northwestern Lake County.

11 For that reason, I ask that the
12 Review Board approve the certificate of need for
13 Vista Medical Center Lindenhurst. Thank you.
14 Susan Lahr."

15 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you. No. 32.

16 MS. TOOMEY: My name is Sarah Toomey,
17 S-a-r-a-h T-o-o-m-e-y. I want to thank you for
18 receiving my comments today.

19 I hope to see many of the Advocate
20 Condell community health and education programs,
21 and I am concerned that a new hospital in Lake
22 County would take away our ability to care for
23 the County's neediest residents.

24 Advocate exists to serve. That is

1 our mission. As a not-for-profit faith-based
2 institution, improving the quality of care for
3 area residents comes first. That's why we offer
4 free of charge screens for chronic diseases such
5 as cancer, diabetes, flu shots, child birth
6 education classes and numerous support groups.

7 We are a partner in the areas of
8 schools to address child obesity. We are
9 offering a multitude of health and wellness
10 education programs both at the hospitals and in
11 the community.

12 In a joint effort with Illinois
13 Attorney General, Lisa Madigan, Advocate Condell
14 Medical Center implemented the sectional
15 examiner program in 2011.

16 We are proud to be the only Level I
17 trauma center in Illinois to staff these
18 specially trained nurses 24 hours a day seven
19 days a week, 365 days a year.

20 Many of our physicians personally
21 dedicate their time, expertise to serve these
22 underprivileged patients free of charge.

23 In 2011 alone Advocate provided
24 95.2 million dollars in free and discounted

1 charity care for the uninsured and underinsured
2 and more than 295 million dollars in care
3 without full reimbursement from Medicare,
4 Medicaid and other government sponsored
5 programs.

6 This isn't just a charity
7 requirement that advocate is trying to reach.
8 It's part of who we are at our core.

9 Each year we commit to building a
10 model the previous year and helping a greater
11 number of patients in a greater number of ways.
12 With the upcoming resident's needs is for the
13 existing health care providers to continue
14 reaching out to them where they live. They need
15 us to continue taking them under our wings.

16 If a new hospital were to come on
17 line, this would pull patients away from our
18 base and affect our resources and jeopardize our
19 ability to keep expanding this invaluable care
20 to those who need it the most.

21 This will be repeated in each of
22 the County's existing hospitals. Keep in mind
23 that much is at stake for the counties neediest
24 residents. Thank you.

1 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you, Ms. Toomey.

2 No. 35.

3 DR. KAPADIA: My name is Naren Kapadia,

4 N-a-r-e-n K-a-p-a-d-i-a.

5 Good afternoon. My name is Naren
6 Kapadia. I have been in private practice as an
7 oncologist/hematologist for more than 30 years
8 in the Waukegan area.

9 I want to tell you a story. A
10 story of Sister Christine, who was one of the
11 senior administrators at St. Therese Hospital,
12 singlehandedly decided to do something about the
13 medical care for the poor in Lake County.

14 She founded the organization known
15 as Health Reach Clinic about 20 years ago and
16 offered free care to thousands of patients who
17 did not have access to care.

18 Many of those patients required
19 specialty care and were seen by many of the
20 physicians in our community and were completely
21 taken care of by St. Therese and Victory
22 Memorial Hospital.

23 Community Health Center now
24 operates both Vista Medical Center East and

1 Vista Medical Center West and are part of Vista
2 Health System. Both of these hospitals continue
3 to provide unflinching support for these
4 patients in north east Lake County.

5 I am proud to be a part of a
6 Community Health Service and Vista System that
7 cares so much about its community to provide
8 quality care.

9 I am confident that this quality
10 health care will continue to be provided to the
11 uninsured as well as indigenous population as
12 Vista System continues to grow in the western
13 part of Lake County in Lindenhurst.

14 Vista is committed to the community
15 and has a proven track record in Waukegan.

16 The experiences of providing
17 quality health care at these two current
18 locations will further provide an impetus to the
19 new location in Lindenhurst.

20 Vista has provided excellent
21 healthcare to the northwestern Lake County
22 residents with its newly opened freestanding
23 Emergency Center, medical office building,
24 radiology services and outpatient services in

1 Lindenhurst campus.

2 The only thing missing from here
3 are hospital beds and inpatient care to our
4 patients.

5 Today I ask the Illinois Health
6 Facilities Planning Board to approve Vista
7 Health System's application for a certificate of
8 need to build Vista Medical Center Lindenhurst.
9 A yes vote will allow Vista to bring its care,
10 commitment and health care services to the
11 residents of Northwest Lake County.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you, Doctor.

14 Is No. 16 here?

15 MS. FULLER: Good afternoon. My name is
16 Raeanna Fuller, R-a-e-a-n-n-a F-u-l-l-e-r.

17 Hello and thank you for the
18 opportunity to speak today and to share my
19 concern over the proposal for a new hospital in
20 Lindenhurst.

21 My name is Raeanna Fuller, and I
22 have been a nurse manager of the intensive care
23 unit at Advocate Condell Medical Center since
24 2005.

1 In this role my team and I are on
2 the front lines of patient care. We have a
3 clear view of what is happening in health care,
4 and the numbers confirm it.

5 Thanks to advances in health care
6 inpatient volumes are down in Lake County and in
7 every zip code that is proposing to serve.

8 As you can see on my chart, the
9 comparison between Lake County and the proposed
10 service area, admissions in Lake County are down
11 from roughly 70,000 in 2009 to 68,000 in 2011.

12 Admissions in Vista's proposed
13 service area are down are for more than 21,000
14 in 2009 to less than 20,000 in 2011.

15 The same story can be told with
16 occupancy rates. Advocate Condell's occupancy
17 is currently at 70.4 percent compared to 79.2
18 percent only five years ago.

19 We are not alone in Lake County.
20 Not a single hospital here meets the State's
21 target occupancy rates, including Vista itself.
22 Decreasing inpatient occupancy is repeated
23 across our six county region.

24 Inpatient admissions have declined

1 five percent over the past two years pushing
2 hospital occupancy rates down, and that trend is
3 consistent across our entire county.

4 In fact, Vista's corporate parent
5 showed that at their 130 hospitals admissions
6 declined 5.6 percent on average last year alone.

7 No doubt a new hospital on Lake
8 County would push the local hospital occupants
9 rates even lower.

10 It is my understanding one of the
11 major purposes of the certificate of need
12 process is to protect against predictable and
13 damaging underutilization of inpatient beds at
14 existing facilities.

15 Ensuring the existing hospitals
16 already with utilization rates below State
17 targets are not plunged further below the
18 standard of care should be the goal as well as
19 to protect our valuable healthcare services.

20 MS. KENDRICK: 30 seconds.

21 MS. FULLER: To that end, it is clear
22 that Lake County residents have ample access in
23 patient care.

24 If there were a strong demand, we

1 would see that reflected in our hospital through
2 increased utilization rates. That isn't the
3 case.

4 I have spoken today on hospital
5 utilization; and as a registered nurse living in
6 Lake Villa for 35 years, I have seen and
7 experienced the many changes in health care over
8 our county over time.

9 It would be easy to say I want a
10 hospital five minutes from my home. However, it
11 is more important to me to have the limited
12 health care dollars available to be used to
13 protect health care resources and expertise
14 currently in Lake County.

15 Constructing a building that
16 divides resources and personnel while
17 threatening care and services is disturbing to
18 me as a health care professional and citizen of
19 Lake Villa.

20 I urge this Board to take a close
21 look at what the project would mean for the
22 region and its already underutilized hospitals.

23 I greatly appreciate the
24 opportunity to share my views and hope the Board

1 will consider them as it makes its decision.

2 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you, Ms. Fuller.

3 No. 37.

4 In the interest of moving forward,
5 would No. 38 be available to get ready to come
6 to the podium and then moving forward, No. 39
7 would be closer to the podium when No. 38 is
8 done so that we don't waste time for people
9 walking to the back of the room. Thank you.

10 MR. LOFFREDO: My name is Frank Loffredo,
11 and I have served as the Mayor of Lake Villa for
12 almost 20 years.

13 During that time, I have been
14 honored to help our village grow into the
15 wonderful place it is to live and work today.

16 Lake Villa is well-known for its
17 small-town charm, but we have the needs of a
18 much larger community. In the last decade
19 alone, our population has increased by early 50
20 percent.

21 As we work to serve the growing
22 needs of our residents, ensuring access to
23 quality medical care has become a major
24 priority.

1 Both as Mayor and as a Lake Villa
2 citizen, I am a strong supporter of Vista Health
3 System's plan to open a new hospital next door
4 in Lindnhurst.

5 Vista's new 132 bed medical center
6 will bring life-saving hospital care to
7 northwestern and north central Lake County, and
8 to the residents of Lake Villa.

9 Unfortunately, access to medical
10 care is not evenly distributed around the Lake
11 County.

12 Residents at Lake Villa and towns
13 such as Lindenhurst and Antioch are forced to
14 drive 20, 30, 40 minutes or more to get access
15 to health care that they need and deserve.

16 If you drive long enough, you can
17 find a hospital. But that hospital might be in
18 a different county or even a different state.

19 I don't think you should have to
20 drive 30 minutes to get hospital care. Shame on
21 us. We need to do better than that.

22 There is no question about the need
23 to open this facility.

24 We owe it to the residents of Lake

1 Villa, Lindenhurst and our neighbors in west and
2 northwestern Lake County to build Vista's new
3 hospital.

4 We need to ensure that quality
5 medical care is available to families close to
6 home when they need it most.

7 Thank you for your time.

8 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you. No. 38.

9 MS. FRIESEN: Virginia Friesen,
10 V-i-r-g-i-n-i-a F-r-i-e-s-e-n. Good afternoon.

11 I am Virginia Friesen, and I am
12 concerned that another Lake County Hospital
13 would negatively impact the quality of care of
14 the people in Lake County, particularly when it
15 comes to cardiac care, one of the most critical
16 kinds of care that could mean the difference
17 between life and death.

18 As the executive director of
19 cardiovascular services at Condell, I manage a
20 number of our programs, including our cardiac
21 catheterization lab.

22 Our patients go immediately to the
23 cath lab. In the cath lab cardiologists perform
24 a procedure where they insert a tube into a

1 patient's artery in order to diagnose and treat
2 serious cardiac conditions with stenting over
3 open heart surgery.

4 For three consecutive periods
5 Advocate Condell has been recognized by the
6 Society of Thoracic Surgeons as a free starter
7 open heart program placed in Condell in the top
8 15 percent in the nation for quality outcomes.

9 The reason is that our doctors have
10 treated a high enough volume of patients over
11 the years.

12 More procedures meets better
13 quality, because physicians have plenty of
14 experience perfecting their technique.

15 Think of it this way: Would you
16 rather put your life in the hands of a physician
17 who performs a procedure several times a week or
18 one that performs the same procedure a few times
19 a month?

20 Advances in health care, however,
21 mean that the number of patients needing open
22 heart surgery is down across the nation.

23 In 2005 we perform more than 300
24 open heart surgeries. In 2011 that number was

1 cut in half to 167.

2 Much of this decline is because not
3 all patients need open heart surgery, but some
4 of it is also because Vista's open heart program
5 has delayed volumes across Lake County.

6 IDPH suggests each open heart
7 program perform at least 200 surgeries a year to
8 maintain quality of care.

9 This is because numerous academic
10 studies have found that low volume open heart
11 surgery programs have higher mortality rates.

12 With the addition of Vista's open
13 heart program a few years ago combined with a
14 declining need for cardiac surgery, none of the
15 cardiac surgery programs in Lake County now
16 achieve the minimum number of surgery expected.
17 Vista performs just 55 open heart surgeries last
18 year or just a handful per month.

19 MS. KENDRICK: 30 seconds.

20 MS. FRIESEN: The proposal Lindenhurst
21 Hospital will include a cardiac catherization
22 lab, meaning it will be the same kind of program
23 as our other open heart programs.

24 Again, the studies and journals in

1 the New England of Medicine have found that
2 mortality rates have higher volumes than lower.
3 It is important to note the same increase in
4 inpatient cardiac services has been at the
5 national level and is expected to continue
6 according to ST2, a nationally recognized
7 organization based in Skokie, which projects
8 health care organizations 10 years in the
9 future.

10 ST2 predicts cardiac inpatient
11 discharges Nationally down 17 percent over the
12 next 10 years, and cardiac outpatient volume
13 will be up 29 percent over the same period.

14 This is largely due to
15 interventions that occur before a patient needs
16 hospitalization.

17 My goal and the goal of all our
18 physicians and staff is to give our patients the
19 highest quality of care possible.

20 I am concerned that our ability
21 will begin to diminish, and our programs may
22 even become unsustainable if Vista's application
23 is approved, along with its request for cardiac
24 catheterization services. I urge the Board to

1 carefully consider what this would mean for our
2 area in the care of our patients.

3 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you. No. 39.

4 MR. MARTURANO: Good afternoon. I am
5 Dominic Marturano, and I am Trustee for the
6 Village of Lindenhurst, and I am quite honored
7 to be here today. Why?

8 Because I can show support for a
9 project that will dramatically strengthen the
10 community's economy and improve our access to
11 health care.

12 Vista has served our community for
13 many years. Its Lindenhurst medical campus is
14 quite impressive, a freestanding emergency
15 center, diagnostic labs and a new medical office
16 building.

17 Let's talk about the emergency
18 center. I have heard that an average of a
19 thousand or more people go there each month.
20 Those numbers alone justify the need for this
21 hospital.

22 In addition, I have talked to many
23 constituents who say they really appreciate this
24 center and hope the hospital will get approved.

1 It's clear that our community wants
2 this hospital.

3 This project also will create
4 hundreds of jobs and new opportunities for the
5 community.

6 These hospital jobs will pay well
7 and will have an incredibly positive ripple
8 effect throughout this area.

9 As a 20-plus year Lindenhurst
10 resident and five-and-a-half year Village
11 Trustee, I know how much this Vista-Lindenhurst
12 project means to long-time residents.

13 We all love living here, but worry
14 about what would happen if we had to be
15 transported to the hospital in an emergency.
16 Especially during rush hour.

17 Vista knows this and wants to help
18 us. Let's help Vista fulfill its vision.

19 I fully support Vista's efforts to
20 provide more quality health care closer to home.
21 I ask that you approve their plans to build
22 Vista Medical Center Lindenhurst.

23 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you. No. 40.

24 DR. DEE: Good afternoon. I am

1 Dr. Stanley, S-t-a-n-l-e-y Dee, D-e-e. I have
2 lived and practiced in Lake County for 24 years.

3 I am here today to oppose this
4 proposal for a new hospital given the services
5 are already available nearby, and the surplus
6 capacity at those facilities. There is no
7 reason to add more inpatient beds in Lake
8 County.

9 In 2011 the Northwestern Grays Lake
10 campus opened a new state-of-the-art outpatient
11 surgery center.

12 Since that expansion I have served
13 as a medical director of the facility and have
14 spent countless hours at the Grays Lake campus.

15 We have a surgery center, a cancer
16 center, a freestanding emergency center, imaging
17 services and physician offices where patients
18 can see their doctors close to home.

19 There is no question we have room
20 for more patients. We have not come close to
21 reaching our capacity.

22 In fact, neither has Vista's
23 campuses and Lindenhurst which offers many of
24 those same services.

1 Last year Vista's operating rooms
2 were used for just 1,276 and a half hours of
3 surgery, which is less than one-third of the
4 4500 hour guidelines set by the State of
5 Illinois. These numbers are a telling sign that
6 a new hospital is not needed on that compass.

7 Lake County is also well-served
8 when it comes to emergency care. There are two
9 freestanding emergency centers within six miles
10 of each other in western Lake county out of a
11 total of four in the entire State.

12 In its application Vista forecasted
13 that they would seek 14,000 visits by the second
14 year of their FEC's operation.

15 In their first year they have seen
16 less than 10,000. We feel more emergency care
17 is not the answer.

18 All Lake County residents are
19 already within 15 minutes of the emergency care.
20 We hope that the Illinois Health Facilities and
21 Services Review Board sees that a new facility
22 should not be built where there is no increase
23 in patient need.

24 If the Great Lakes campus has

1 capacity and the Vista Lindenhurst campus has in
2 excess capacity, the numbers do not support a
3 new inpatient facility.

4 Please take the area's existing
5 services and capacities into consideration when
6 you review Vista's proposal. Thank you.

7 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you, Dr. Dee.
8 No. 41.

9 MR. DeKIND: Hello. My name is Brian
10 DeKind, and I am Chief of the Antioch Rescue
11 Squad.

12 I am happy to offer my support for
13 the hospital proposed for Lindenhurst by Vista
14 Health System.

15 The Antioch Rescue Squad is a
16 nonprofit corporation, dedicated to helping
17 those who are injured or sick in the Antioch
18 community.

19 We also provide first aid education
20 to the public, and I am proud to say that the
21 Antioch Rescue Squad, which was founded more
22 than 70 years ago, was the first of its kind in
23 Illinois, and first in the Midwest.

24 Our goal always has been and

1 continues to be to treat and stabilize injured
2 and sick people as quickly as possible and
3 transport them to a place where they can be seen
4 by emergency physicians as soon as possible.

5 I realize that we can't -- and
6 shouldn't -- have hospitals on every corner.
7 However, there is no denying that all of us in
8 the northwest part of Lake County, especially
9 the Antioch and lakes region, have lacked
10 reasonable access to hospital care as long as we
11 can remember.

12 Vista's plan to build a hospital in
13 Lindenhurst will help improve access to care for
14 everyone.

15 As I understand it, this hospital
16 would include a Level II Trauma Center and
17 plenty of inpatient beds, which makes sense, why
18 transport people across the county or out of the
19 state?

20 Residents in Antioch are among
21 those who would benefit most from this hospital.
22 Many times we have had to send our patients to
23 hospitals in Wisconsin because it's the closest
24 place to get care.

1 No one wants to be in an ambulance
2 for 30-plus minutes. It takes a toll on the
3 patient. And, once we reach the hospital, it
4 takes our crews a long time to get back to our
5 district, which can hurt further responses. The
6 close proximity of the Lindenhurst hospital will
7 help in all of those areas.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to
9 come here today and speak about something that's
10 very important to me and the Antioch Rescue
11 Squad and reasonable access to life-saving
12 health care. I ask that you approve this
13 certificate of need so that Vista can build a
14 hospital where it's needed the most. Thank you.

15 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you, Mr. DeKind.
16 No. 42.

17 MR. FLYNN: Matt Flynn, M-a-t-t,
18 F-l-y-n-n.

19 I want to thank you for your time
20 today. I am a Representative of Northwestern
21 Lake Forest Hospital, and our efforts is in
22 opposition to this application.

23 As senior vice president and chief
24 financial officer at Northwestern Lake Forest

1 Hospital, it is my responsibility to carefully
2 monitor all of the factors that effect the
3 health care to our patients.

4 I need to make sure that we keep
5 pace with changes in health care technology,
6 watch how our reimbursement rates are changing,
7 evaluate the demand for services and control the
8 costs of high quality health care to everybody
9 who needs access to care.

10 It is vitally important that local
11 residents can afford the care they need and also
12 the hospitals stay in business to deliver care.

13 I can remember a time when in my
14 career that during an annual budget process, my
15 finance colleagues and I were in the room until
16 everybody on staff needed to learn how to become
17 more efficient and do more with less.

18 It seems today we are delivering
19 that message more than just during the annual
20 budget process. We are delivering it often
21 during the year.

22 Let me point out that our
23 discussions today about changes in our entire
24 economy and/or health care industry.

1 First it has been mentioned before
2 that inpatient services are declining across the
3 entire country, not just in our own environment.

4 As patients seek different choices
5 because of their own economic concerns for what
6 they are going through personally and also we
7 see shifts of changes in technology.

8 Second, as we all know,
9 reimbursement rates are changing and decreasing.
10 The entire industry does not have enough money
11 to take care of everybody that needs care. We
12 need to find ways to do that.

13 So hospitals are paid less for
14 every procedure and service they provide.
15 Hospitals need to operate efficiently so they
16 can continue to invest in advanced technology
17 and specialty services. A new hospital will
18 impact it all.

19 It takes a critical volume of
20 patients to support clinical care 24 hours a day
21 seven days a week both financially and from a
22 quality perspective.

23 Finally, the Affordable Care Act
24 will change the way we provide health care in

1 the future, and we are already dealing with many
2 of the ramifications of that Act.

3 We cannot at this time in our
4 history overspend, overbill or overinvest in
5 services that won't be affordable for anyone in
6 the future.

7 Northwestern, Lake Forest hospitals
8 invested significantly to provide our community
9 with basic and specialty care and services close
10 to home.

11 As a matter of fact, within six
12 miles of care. We remain committed to deliver
13 quality care and an efficient system throughout
14 Lake County.

15 We ask that the Illinois Finance
16 Board look carefully at this application,
17 evaluate whether it is true and document it that
18 we need more inpatient beds in this region.
19 Thank you.

20 MS. KENDRICK: No. 43.

21 MR. FRANKLIN: I am Brock Franklin,
22 B-r-o-c-k F-r-a-n-k-l-i-n. Good afternoon.

23 Thank you for allowing me to speak.

24 I am an emergency medicine

1 physician and the medical director of Vista
2 Health System's Emergency departments.

3 Our emergency room plays a vital
4 role in providing trauma care to east and
5 southeastern Lake County.

6 We must extend this care to
7 underserved areas in north central and
8 northwestern Lake County.

9 And, I also want to be clear that
10 adding a Level II Trauma Center in Lindenhurst
11 would not, in itself, mean that Advocate Condell
12 would have to close down its Level I Trauma
13 Center. That is an empty threat.

14 The truth is that Level I Trauma
15 cases would still be transported to Condell.
16 That's the way the trauma system is designed.
17 Our new hospital would not decrease the number
18 of Level I cases in Lake County.

19 Vista's goal is to increase access
20 to the routine services provided by virtually
21 every other hospital for the north central and
22 northwestern parts of the county. To repeat,
23 this is about increasing access to life-saving
24 care.

1 At Vista East, we are fortunate
2 that many of our patients are transported from
3 Waukegan or from just outside the city.

4 I shudder when I hear about some of
5 the ambulance transport times in northwestern
6 Lake County. It's 30 to 45 minutes. That's
7 amazing.

8 I am in awe of our amazingly
9 dedicated paramedics and firefighters from
10 northwestern and north central Lake County.

11 Just think about all of the
12 life-saving work they do when they transport
13 people on long rides across the country. But it
14 shouldn't be all on them. They need to have a
15 hospital nearby.

16 We are expecting about 12,000
17 visits to the Lindenhurst freestanding emergency
18 center this year. About 100 of those patients
19 each month are admitted to the hospital.

20 Vista's new hospital can provide
21 nearby hospital beds for the recovery process.
22 This will allow us to deliver patient-centered
23 care that keeps people near their homes.

24 In closing, I ask that you approve

1 the Vista Medical Center Lindenhurst project.

2 Thank you.

3

4 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you, Dr. Franklin.

5 No. 44.

6 MR. CARTWRIGHT: My name is David,

7 D-a-v-i-d, Cartwright, C-a-r-t-w-r-i-g-h-t.

8 Good afternoon. I am David

9 Cartwright, the Chief Financial Officer of

10 Advocate Condell Medical Center.

11 I am here in opposition to Vista's

12 Lindenhurst application because it will

13 unnecessarily add to the cost of health care in

14 Lake County and negatively impact the quality of

15 care and financial stability of existing

16 hospitals.

17 Let's be very clear. The proposed

18 Vista facility is not needed to meet population

19 growth or unmet health needs in Lake County.

20 The patient plan for this facility

21 will nearly come by shifting patients from other

22 Lake County hospitals to this new facility.

23 As others have clearly stated,

24 there is not sufficient inpatient bed need in

1 Lake County both now and in the future.

2 In fact, because of changes in
3 health care and health care reform, fewer and
4 fewer inpatient beds will be needed in the
5 future.

6 More patients will be cared for and
7 the cost effective outpatient and physician
8 office settings.

9 This means that in the future even
10 less inpatient beds will be needed than what we
11 have now. There really is no need for another
12 hospital in Lake County.

13 In reality if this hospital is
14 built, another hospital will likely have to be
15 closed down.

16 The consequences of adding another
17 hospital that nearly duplicates existing
18 services and seals patients from other
19 facilities has huge negative affects.

20 First of all, with lower volumes
21 and fewer financial resources to support health
22 care services at existing hospitals, the quality
23 of care at these other Lake County hospitals
24 will be negatively impacted.

1 At Advocate Condell in particular,
2 we estimate that this new hospital will result
3 in a loss of about 2400 inpatient admissions and
4 negatively impact outpatient volumes as well.

5 This volume shift will cause the
6 loss of about 22 million dollars in revenues at
7 Advocate Condell and cause our overall
8 operations to shift to less profit to a loss.

9 This will greatly reduce our
10 ability to reinvest in a hospital and meet
11 future community needs and will require us to
12 look at cutting programs and services.

13 Further, we would have to lay off
14 approximately 75 people to absorb this loss.

15 MS. KENDRICK: 30 seconds.

16 MR. CARTWRIGHT: I expect other hospitals
17 in Lake County would also be negatively impacted
18 as well; but beyond the impact of the community
19 of duplicating services, there is a very real
20 impact on the costs of health care in Lake
21 County.

22 This hospital by Vista's own
23 estimate will cost 131 million dollars.

24 In addition, there will be tens of

1 millions of dollars of ongoing costs of
2 maintaining the new facility and managing the
3 operations.

4 These costs will have to be passed
5 on to the employers and people of Lake County in
6 the form of higher health insurance premiums or
7 another hospital is going to have to close.

8 Approving a new hospital in Lake
9 County with excess hospital capacity will just
10 result in shifting patients around and
11 negatively impacting both the quality of care
12 and the financial stability of existing
13 hospitals and again in the end result in the
14 closure of another hospital down the road.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you, Mr. Cartwright.

17 No. 45.

18 MR. PULLER: My name is Neil Puller,

19 N-e-i-l P-u-l-l-e-r.

20 Good afternoon. My name is

21 Dr. Neil Puller.

22 I am a radiologist with 30 years of
23 experience in Lake County, and I also am a Vista
24 board member.

1 When you review this Certificate of
2 Need application, it is easy to see the clear
3 need for Vista Medical Center Lindenhurst.

4 Vista's Lindenhurst medical campus
5 features excellent radiology facilities and
6 services, including a diagnostics lab, CT, MRI
7 and digital mammography.

8 Patients are fully utilizing these
9 services, and I have used these facilities to
10 diagnose countless conditions.

11 Some of my patients are admitted to
12 hospitals as a result of these tests.

13 Adding a hospital to this campus
14 would allow these patients to receive treatment
15 close to home.

16 Most importantly, close to their
17 family and friends, as well as their doctors and
18 other medical professionals.

19 When you look at a map of Lake
20 County, you can see that the hospitals are
21 located in east, south or southeastern sections
22 of Lake County.

23 This is unfair to every resident
24 that lives in north, west or northwest portions

1 of Lake County.

2 This unbalance in access to
3 hospital services needs to be fixed. It simply
4 does not make sense to have six hospitals in one
5 half of a county and zero in the other half.
6 Lindenhurst and its surrounding areas need
7 hospital beds in the community.

8 It is unreasonable to ask such a
9 large amount of Lake County residents to travel
10 30 minutes or more to reach a hospital.

11 This problem is only exacerbated
12 during rush hour and in the case of medical
13 emergencies.

14 Finally, it would be something
15 between hypocritical and disingenuous for an
16 organization that actually applied for a
17 certificate of need several years ago for a
18 Round Lake hospital to now claim that the
19 necessity for a northwest Lake County hospital
20 no longer exists.

21 I urge the Board to look at a map
22 of Lake County and you will see that we are not
23 properly serving an entire half of the county.
24 We can fix this, though, through the approval of

1 Vista Medical Center Lindenhurst. Thank you.

2 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you, Dr. Puller.

3 No. 46.

4 I would also like to encourage
5 anyone who would like to submit your written
6 testimony, that is still an option that is
7 available to you. We will be wrapping up at
8 2:30.

9 MR. YOUNG: Hello. I am Dan Young, D-a-n
10 Y-o-u-n-g. I am the Fire Chief of Waukegan.
11 For the past four years I have had the honor and
12 the privilege of serving as the Chief of the
13 Waukegan Fire Department.

14 The Waukegan Fire Department and
15 Vista Health System have worked together to
16 reduce response times, improve critical care of
17 patients, and dramatically increase the overall
18 success associated with a new system for
19 treating and diagnosing heart attack patients
20 and ultimately saving lives.

21 That's one thing firefighters and
22 health care systems have in common. We save
23 lives, but we can only do so in more efficient
24 ways when our communities have access to

1 convenient, high quality care.

2 I stand here today in full support
3 of Vista's plans to build a new hospital in
4 Lindenhurst, because Vista Health System sets
5 the standard for high quality care.

6 Vista's hospital plan shows it is
7 committed to making sure all Lake County
8 residents have reasonable access to hospital
9 care.

10 The consensus among many area fire
11 chiefs is that transport times are still too
12 high.

13 For example, the closest hospitals
14 to Vista's medical campus in Lindenhurst are 20
15 to 25 miles away.

16 It can take 45 minutes to get the
17 patient to a hospital for care, and that's on a
18 good day, due to congested roadways. That is in
19 addition to the time it takes to get to the
20 patient in the first place.

21 We are all aware that the
22 population in western and northwestern Lake
23 County continues to grow.

24 As we welcome more families into

1 this county, we will get more emergency calls
2 and congestion which hinder our ability to
3 provide life-saving care.

4 If the Review Board approves this
5 hospital, it could save more lives.

6 And remember, that's my job.
7 That's also Vista Health Systems job, to save
8 lives.

9 Thank you for your time.

10 MS. KENDRICK: No. 48.

11 MR. MILLER: My name is Helen Miller, and
12 I am a resident of Lake Villa. I have lived
13 here for 11-and-a-half years, and I am opposed
14 to Vista's new hospital in the area because we
15 simply don't need a new hospital.

16 I am an art teacher in the Waukegan
17 school system, and on April 8, 2009 I was in a
18 Spanish class at school and I started coughing
19 up blood.

20 The EMT's asked if I cared which
21 hospital I would go to, the one in Waukegan or
22 Condell in Libertyville. I said Libertyville
23 Condell for sure.

24 I was transported by ambulance to

1 Adequate Condell Medical Center in Libertyville
2 where the team discovered I had an AEF, an
3 aortic esophageal fistula.

4 I then underwent a 12 hour open
5 heart procedure to correct this, which
6 effectively was the first time that Condell
7 saved my life.

8 I was in a coma and spent three
9 months in the hospital. One whole month was at
10 Condell and then on October 26, 2010 I was
11 impaled by a tree in a storm while driving my
12 car in Lindenhurst.

13 A tree approximately 75 feet tall
14 fell on my car and went into my abdomen. I
15 remember when the tree was in my stomach, I
16 asked the EMT which hospital, and they said
17 Condell. At that point I was very happy to know
18 that I was going to live.

19 The Lake Villa paramedics who freed
20 me from my car were my heroes, but more
21 importantly the hospital they were taking me to
22 was Condell, a Level I trauma center; and in
23 fact a Level I trauma center in Lake County.

24 For the second time Advocate Health

1 Center saved my life. I spent two weeks at
2 Condell Medical Center recovering. I was in
3 a lot of pain, but I knew I was to live. I was
4 at the right place to be, which is Condell.

5 For the level of services I
6 received at Advocate Condell both times were
7 what exactly what I needed to live.

8 I want to be clear that a hospital
9 such as the one Vista is proposing would not
10 have been an option for me in either case.

11 What we as residents and, God
12 forbid as patients, need our services that are
13 already existing in Lake County from places,
14 like Advocate Condell Medical Center.

15 We don't need a basic hospital that
16 will drive up health care costs and offer a
17 lower level of services and weaken the strong
18 network of health care providers that we have
19 right now in Lake County.

20 I vehemently oppose this Vista
21 project and hope that you will, too. Thank you.

22 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you Ms. Miller.

23 No. 47.

24 MR. CLAUSE: Good afternoon. My name is

1 John Clause. I am a police chief in
2 Lindenhurst, Illinois. I became chief in 2010,
3 and I have served our department for 25 years.

4 I am proud to be able to protect
5 the residents of Lindenhurst. They have put
6 their trust in me. It is my duty to uphold that
7 trust. I will stand up for what I believe is
8 best for our village, which is why I am here
9 today.

10 I think Vista's plan for a new
11 hospital is a much needed addition to the
12 current Vista medical campus Lindenhurst.

13 I have seen a lot of changes in
14 Lindenhurst in 25 years. The population has
15 exploded, not just here, but in the surrounding
16 areas.

17 We have more homes, more stores,
18 more schools; and of course, a lot more traffic.
19 That is why this Vista freestanding emergency
20 center has been such a welcome addition to our
21 community.

22 It's a great piece of mind to know
23 that an emergency center is nearby on the Vista
24 medical campus. It is really convenient for

1 first responders and our citizens.

2 But we all know that Northwestern
3 and north central Lake County needs much more
4 than just an emergency center.

5 For example, every month about 100
6 patients from that center are transported to
7 hospitals across the country.

8 This makes no sense to keep
9 patients on the campus at a full service
10 hospital, and police officers, paramedics and
11 firefighters throughout the area are looking for
12 a new hospital Level 2 trauma center.

13 If the hospital is built on the
14 medical center ground, families and patients
15 brought to the ER won't have to worry about
16 their loved ones. Very likely they will be at
17 Vista in Lindenhurst.

18 Once patients are treated at the
19 E.R., they can be moved into the rooms and if
20 needed directly on campus.

21 The residents of Lindenhurst and
22 Northwestern Lake County deserve better access
23 to health care.

24 It is obvious that Vista is

1 committed to the Village of Lindenhurst, and I
2 hope that you will approve this application to
3 bring a new hospital to our area.

4 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you. No. 49.
5 No. 50.

6 MR. WELSH: My name is Michael Welsh, and
7 I am President of Rothstein University of
8 Medicine Science.

9 I speak today with the approval of
10 my board leadership, Chair Ruth Rothstein,
11 previously CEO of Cook County, now Stroger
12 Hospital and Chief of Cook County Bureau of
13 Health Services.

14 We have our board and president
15 emeritus for health system, past president of
16 the American Hospital Association and recently
17 recognized by the Institute of Medicine for
18 Services to Health Care in the United States.

19 While we have our mandate and is
20 recognized for service to the community,
21 especially Lake County, while we have more than
22 16,000 alumni practicing medicine all over the
23 globe, our home campus to be found in North
24 Chicago.

1 Each year we award up to 600
2 degrees to health professional students who
3 experience a clinical education in the health
4 systems, hospitals and clinics of our region.

5 Many of them are in the system with
6 Lutheran General Hospital being the primary
7 teaching hospital from the medical school.

8 For the past decade our students
9 have been using the model of professional
10 education, now generally accepted as the
11 essential underpinning of collaborative health
12 care delivering models of the future.

13 As a result of the Affordable Care
14 Act this nation is about to undergo
15 transformation in the delivery of health care.

16 But it remains uncertain how many
17 of our population will be insured by which
18 mechanisms, how much it will cost and what
19 models will be used to deliver care.

20 We do know that the most expensive
21 health care system in the world must be
22 transformed to provide better care with better
23 outcomes at less costs.

24 The mechanism will shift away from

1 fee for service to some form of perspective
2 payment.

3 All this will happen in the era in
4 which diagnosis and treatment is shifting to
5 protection and prevention of the disease.

6 With a reemphasis on community
7 health and an attack on the social determinance
8 of disease, obesity, smoking and violence.

9 MS. KENDRICK: 30 seconds.

10 MR. WELSH: Hospital census is down in
11 many parts of the country. Small hospitals are
12 closing or merging with larger systems while
13 primary care centers are expanding.

14 We believe that to build new
15 hospitals during these uncertain times is at
16 best unwise.

17 Further, to financially destabilize
18 existing health systems in which our students
19 learn will we fear result in less access to
20 vital clinical education experience and drive up
21 even more the cost of education and ever
22 increasing national problem.

23 In summary, what might in the short
24 term appear to be a reasonable aggravation in a

1 system which uses current models health care
2 delivery, the wisdom of such action in the long
3 term is questionable.

4 What is of valued concern in
5 approving such decisions is that the short term
6 is likely less than five years, perhaps even
7 less than the time it takes to build a new
8 hospital.

9 We entertain this matter, the
10 State's decision to fall square into political
11 expedience.

12 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you. No. 52.

13 MR. SO: Good afternoon. My name is
14 Jeffrey So, J-e-f-f-r-e-y S-o. I am the
15 Director of Business Development, Advocate
16 Health Care, and I actually responsible for
17 coordinating CON projects for Advocate Health
18 Care.

19 I am testifying in opposition to
20 the Vista proposal to build a hospital in
21 Lindenhurst.

22 You have heard many testimonies
23 today and let me summarize the opposition to
24 this project.

1 Clearly, this proposal is not in
2 accordance with the rules set forth by the
3 Planning Board.

4 Under the Planning Act, the purpose
5 of the board and the rules are to limit
6 duplication of services and lower health care
7 costs and investment in capital. This project
8 clearly does not meet the rules set forth by the
9 Board.

10 No. 1, no beds needed in the
11 planning area. There is simply no reason to add
12 beds to the defined health planning area that
13 has more beds available than needed.

14 According to the report published
15 by the Illinois Department of Public Health
16 State staff, there are an excess of 86 med/surg
17 beds and 15 OB-GYN beds in Lake County.

18 According to the AHQ, Vista East's
19 med/surg peak census was 126 patients, if you
20 relocate 100 beds as described in the CON
21 application, how many beds would be left?

22 No. 2, available resources: As
23 stated earlier, in addition to an excessive
24 number of beds, there is an overabundance of

1 healthcare services available to the residents
2 of Lindenhurst and Lake County.

3 Available health care services
4 include numerous hospitals, two freestanding
5 emergency rooms, multiple surgicenters, and a
6 multitude of physician offices.

7 In fact, an addition of duplicative
8 services to this fragile planning area will have
9 detrimental impact on all existing services.

10 No. 3, population growth:

11 According to CON submitted for the Vista new
12 hospital, they claim that the basis for need is
13 based on anticipated demographic changes and
14 rapid population growth. I'm confused.

15 When I look at housing permit
16 information from the U.S. Census Bureau, there
17 is a significant drop in housing permits issued
18 between 2005 and 2011.

19 In fact, the housing permits were
20 3,462 buildings in 2005 which rapidly dropped to
21 310 buildings in 2011.

22 Why is the question of rapid
23 population growth an issue? Your review board
24 rules require that Vista prove that the

1 population is experiencing rapid population
2 growth, and they have not, so your rules require
3 physician referrals to justify the project.
4 There are no referral letters with the
5 application.

6 No. 4, comparison of safety net
7 hospitals: Earlier you heard that Vista was the
8 primary safety net hospital but according to the
9 information provided in the AHQ the comparison
10 paints a different picture. Let's look at the
11 numbers.

12 Our opposition is aligned with the
13 purpose of the Illinois Health Facilities and
14 Services Review Board to manage to duplication
15 of scarce health care resources and to follow
16 the direction of national health care reform
17 efforts and make the health care system much
18 more efficient.

19 We urge you to oppose this project
20 as the justification does not meet specified
21 needs justification and there is no additional
22 beds needed in Lake County.

23 That concludes our comments. Thank
24 you.

1 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you, Mr. So. 54.

2 MS. KENDRICK: Proceed.

3 MR. STOLMAN: Good afternoon. My name is
4 David Stolman, and I am chairman of the Lake
5 County Board.

6 I have been on the Board for the
7 past 20 years and have been a resident of Lake
8 County for more than 30 years.

9 As Chairman, it is my
10 responsibility to lead Lake County toward
11 achieving the goals set by its residents and the
12 County Board.

13 As many of you know, one of the
14 goals of our strategic plan is to build health
15 and resilient communities.

16 We are working to maintain the
17 well-being of residents by focusing on health
18 care access for families, the aging population
19 and other populations in need.

20 As the County Board began
21 developing its strategic plan in 2008, Vista had
22 already identified an imbalance in access to
23 medical care in northeastern Lake County.

24 There has been tremendous

1 population growth in this area of the county and
2 more is expected.

3 As the population grows, the roads
4 get busier and for many residents in this area,
5 driving more than 30 minutes for medical care
6 just isn't right.

7 Access to quality, affordable
8 health care is also essential to the continued
9 economic growth in this region.

10 A new hospital would bring jobs to
11 residents in north and central Lake County. For
12 these reasons, Lake County continues to support
13 Vista's plan for a new private hospital presence
14 in northwest Lake County and continued
15 healthcare services in Waukegan.

16 I commend the Review Board for
17 approving Vista's Freestanding Emergency Center,
18 which opened in July of 2011.

19 It has been a tremendous asset to
20 the community, and it is on track to treat about
21 12,000 patients by the end of this year.

22 Members of the Review Board, you
23 have the opportunity to correct this imbalanced
24 distribution of hospital beds and to do the

1 right thing for Lake County residents.

2 Your approval of this much-needed
3 hospital in Lindenhurst will help Lake County
4 meet its goal, by making hospital services more
5 accessible for all individuals and families.

6 I support Vista's plans for a
7 Lindenhurst hospital, and I encourage you to do
8 the same. Thank you for your time.

9 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you, Mr. Stolman.

10 Does anyone have the No. 1 blue
11 card?

12 [No response.]

13 MS. AVERY: Whoever is going to speak
14 last, will you come forward.

15 On a side note, does anyone have
16 the No. 1 card?

17 [No response.]

18 MS. SMART: Hello. My name is
19 Dr. Deborah Smart, D-e-b-o-r-a-h S-m-a-r-t, and
20 I am here on behalf of Vista Health System.

21 I would like to express our
22 appreciation to the broad spectrum of
23 individuals that have expressed their support
24 for this project today, including patients and

1 area residents, elected officials, physicians
2 and first responders.

3 I would like to thank the Hearing
4 Officer and board members present and the Board
5 for the opportunity to be heard.

6 We are excited about this project,
7 because it will bring services to a population
8 that has long been in need of approved access.

9 As noted by the opposition, Vista
10 Medical Center Lindenhurst is programmatically
11 designed to provide the services typically
12 provided in the community hospital setting.

13 In fact, we purposefully elected
14 not to duplicate the tertiary care services
15 already available in Lake County.

16 However, while not duplicating
17 those services, the proposed hospital will
18 improve access to the types of inpatient
19 services most often required by those in need.

20 Vista has a long and
21 well-recognized reputation for providing both
22 Medicaid and charity care services to some of
23 the most economically challenged residents of
24 Lake County, and any suggestion that it has

1 failed to do so because of its for-profit
2 organization is unfounded.

3 To the contrary, it will enhance
4 its services to these residents with a new
5 hospital in Lindenhurst.

6 Again, we thank you for this
7 opportunity and look forward to working with
8 residents of the community, the Board and its
9 staff to bring a hospital to Northwestern and
10 North Central Lake County.

11 Thank you very much.

12 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you, Dr. Smart.

13 If there is anyone remaining that
14 would like to say their name and their support
15 and submit their testimony, please free do to it
16 that now.

17 MR. SABONJIAN: Yes. Good afternoon.

18 My name is Robert Sabonjian, and I
19 am the Mayor of the City of Waukegan.

20 I am here today to support Vista
21 Health System's plans to build a hospital in
22 Lindenhurst.

23 If you are wondering why I am
24 taking a stand in favor of a new hospital on the

1 other side of the county, let me explain why: I
2 strongly support Vista's commitment to make sure
3 all Lake County residents have reasonable access
4 to hospital care.

5 Vista is certainly committed to
6 Waukegan and our residents. We are the 9th
7 largest city in Illinois and have a wonderfully
8 diverse population.

9 Vista is one of the pillars of our
10 community, serving as the area's health care
11 leader and the city's fourth largest employer.

12 In my almost four years as mayor, I
13 have had with me Vista representatives countless
14 times.

15 I am always learning something new
16 about Vista's plans to provide even better
17 service to our community.

18 In fact, I visited Vista East last
19 February to celebrate the opening of the Same
20 Day Surgery Unit and Wound Care Center.

21 This was a \$3 million dollar
22 investment into Vista East, one of many
23 additions, improvements and updates that Vista
24 has made to its buildings in recent years.

1 Vista has invested in the people of
2 the Waukegan area, too.

3 In addition to being a job creator
4 and a taxpayer, I have witnessed Vista Health
5 System's strong commitment to care for everyone
6 in our community, especially those who are
7 disadvantaged. Thank you.

8 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you.

9 MS. MURKEY: Good afternoon. My name is
10 Eleanor Murkey. I am a Vista Board member and a
11 retired dean of the College of Lake County
12 Lakeshore Campus, and I would like to submit my
13 written testimony in support of the project.

14 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you.

15 MS. VANCAMP: Good afternoon. My name is
16 Vera Vancamp of Lake County Board, and I will
17 turn in my comments and my support for Vista. I
18 will turn it in to you.

19 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you.

20 MR. STEERUP: My name is Larry Steerup.
21 I would like to submit my papers in support of
22 this.

23 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you. The Board
24 members will receive your testimony.

1 MS. MEADIE: My name is Connie Meadie,
2 and I am the executive director of the
3 Lindenhurst/Lake Villa Chamber of Commerce; and
4 I would like to submit my support.

5 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you.

6 DR. KHURANA: My name is Anil Khurana. I
7 am here to strongly support the proposed Vista
8 Lindenhurst Hospital.

9 This facility will provide medical
10 services for all of the residents of north
11 central and northwestern Lake County, regardless
12 of their ability to pay.

13 These services, including a Level
14 II trauma center and 12 much-needed ICU beds,
15 can save many patients' lives. I would submit
16 my support for the center.

17 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you.

18 MS. SCHMIDT: My name is Elizabeth
19 Schmidt, and I fully support the project.

20 May I submit my statement?

21 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you.

22 MS. GRASS: Hi. My name is Linda Grass.
23 I have lived in Lake Villa since 1978. I raised
24 two children here and have a business here, a

1 child care business for 20 years; and I cannot
2 tell you how much we all really would like to
3 have this hospital here. Thank you.

4 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you.

5 DR. JAVADI: My name is Omid Javadi,
6 O-m-i-d J-a-v-a-d-i; and I am a cardiothoracic
7 surgeon serving in Lake County. My job is to
8 perform heart and chest surgeries. My patients
9 have the benefit of an open heart program and
10 inpatient beds at Vista East.

11 I would like to submit my letter in
12 support of the center.

13 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you.

14 MR. KRAFT: Good afternoon, ladies and
15 gentlemen. Thank you for letting me go in front
16 of you.

17 My name is Joel Kraft with
18 Hillcrest Nursing Center. We have a 144 bed
19 nursing facility at Round Lake Beach
20 approximately five minutes south of Lindenhurst.
21 I am in support of Vista Medical Center.

22 We trust that the Board will make
23 the right decision.

24 Thank you.

1 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you.

2 DR. SRINIVASAN: Good afternoon. My name
3 is Lavanya Srinivasan. I specialize in critical
4 care medicine and pulmonary disease and have an
5 office in Gurnee.

6 MS. AVERY: Spell your name for the court
7 reporter.

8 DR. SRINIVASAN: L-a-v-a-n-y-a
9 S-r-i-n-i-v-a-s-a-n.

10 I am in favor of the Vista
11 facility.

12 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you.

13 MS. RENOW: Good afternoon. My name is
14 Claire Renow.

15 I have 61 statements in support,
16 which I would like to thank the individuals for
17 agreeing to be here to speak today; but in the
18 interest of time, we will hand these 61
19 statements in to you.

20 Thank you. I can read all the
21 names if you like.

22 MS. AVERY: We will put them into the
23 record.

24 MS. RENOW: Thank you.

1 (WHEREUPON, the following
2 individuals have submitted their
3 statements to the Board in
4 support of the Vista Medical Center
5 Lindenhurst project:
6 Claire Renow, John R. Nixon, Diana
7 O'Kelly, Pinto-Thomas, M.D., Geetha M.
8 Reddy, M.D., Leon Rockingham, Dr.Sergei
9 Shevlyagin, Gary Stittgen, Isaac Thomas,
10 M.D., Paul Tierney, Steve Voracek,
11 William E. Woods, M.D., Dionisio B.
12 Yorro, Jr., M.D., Karen Harms, Amy
13 Swift-Johnson, M.D., James Adamson, M.D.,
14 Mahesh Agarwal, M.D., Nejd F. Alsikafi,
15 M.D., Terry Amanti, Bill Anderson,
16 Jennifer Bellucci-Jackson, M.D., Antao
17 Du, M.D., Jai Jung Nho, M.D., Hank
18 Govekar, Nestor Guzman, M.D. Leonard
19 Ginzburg, M.D., Lawrence M. Hanson,
20 Oscar Giron, M.D., Yoginder Kumar, M.D.,
21 Angelo Kyle, Hank Govekar, Shauna Haske,
22 Fred Fredl, Richard Hill, Jim Zegar,
23 Robert Thain, M.D., Nancy Bock, James
24 Boris, Jodi Brown, Frederick Capaccio,

1 Patricia Chybowski, Charles Jaffe, D.O.,
2 Robert Koch, D.O., J. William Benge,
3 M.D., Fahd Jajeh, M.D., Maher Nahlawi,
4 M.D. Kevin Liebovich, M.D., Art Neubauer,
5 Moo U. Lim, M.D., Richard Margolin,
6 M.D., Wajahat Mirza.)

7 MS. KENDRICK: Is there anyone else who
8 would like to submit their names into the record
9 and submit their written testimony.

10 [No Response]

11 MS. KENDRICK: Just to be clear for the
12 record, it will say Claire Renow is submitting
13 on behalf of 61 letters of support.

14 MS. AVERY: And then we will list those
15 61 into the record.

16 MS. RENOW: Okay.

17 MS. KENDRICK: Any additional testimony?

18 MR. NEUBAUER: My name is Art Neubauer.
19 I am the treasurer of Lindenhurst. I will
20 submit my letter of support.

21 MS. KENDRICK: Thank you.

22 Is there anyone else who would like
23 to submit any additional written or oral
24 testimony this afternoon?

1 [No response.]

2 MS. KENDRICK: Please note that this
3 project is tentatively scheduled for
4 consideration by the State Board at its February
5 5th meeting in Bolingbrook, Illinois.

6 Please refer to the Board's web
7 site at www.hfsrb.illinois.gov. for the meeting
8 location and time.

9 The information will be posted no
10 later than February 1st. The public has until
11 9:00 a.m. Wednesday January 16th to submit
12 signed written comments pertaining to this
13 project.

14 Comments should be sent to the
15 attention of Courtney Avery, Administrator at
16 the Illinois Health Facility Services Review
17 Board, 525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor,
18 Springfield, Illinois 62761. You may also fax
19 your comments to 217-785-4111.

20 The state agency report for this
21 project will be made available on the Board's
22 web site on Tuesday, January 22nd.

23 Written responses to the content of
24 that report's findings will be accepted until

1 9:00 a.m. on Monday, January 28th.

2 Comments should be sent to the
3 attention of Courtney Avery at the Springfield
4 address.

5 Does anyone else have any
6 questions?

7 [No response.]

8 MS. KENDRICK: Hearing that there are no
9 additional questions or comments, I deem this
10 public hearing adjourned.

11 Thank you for your patience today
12 and for your participation.

13 (WHEREUPON, the public
14 hearing adjourned at 2:55
15 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
)
COUNTY OF DU PAGE)

I, Patricia Ann Armstrong, a Certified Shorthand Reporter, Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public within and for the State of Illinois, do hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings were taken by me to the best of my ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties of this proceeding, and further that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I do hereunto set my hand at Chicago, Illinois this 27th day of November, 2012.



Certified Shorthand Reporter
C.S.R. Certificate No. 84-1766