

## Constantino, Mike

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**From:** Zacher, Robin [rzacher@ifh.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 15, 2013 9:13 AM  
**To:** Dale.Galassie@Illinois.gov; Avery, Courtney; Constantino, Mike  
**Cc:** Orth, Bridget; Christie, Robert; Griffin, Jane; Oberrieder, Marsha; McAfee, Thomas  
**Subject:** Letter of Opposition - Vista Lindenhurst Medical Center - Project #12-081  
**Attachments:** Vista Lindenhurst 12-081 - Letter of Opposition - Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital.pdf

Mr. Dale Galassie,  
Chairman  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Letter of Opposition  
Vista Lindenhurst Medical Center  
Project #12-081

Dear Mr. Galassie:

Please accept the attached letter as Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital's letter of opposition to Project #12-081, Vista Lindenhurst Medical Center.

Thank you.

Robin Zacher

Robin B. Zacher  
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Business Development and Planning

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Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital  
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# **M** Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital

January 14, 2013

Mr. Dale Galassie  
Chairman  
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 West Jefferson Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

**Re: Letter of Opposition  
Vista Lindenhurst Medical Center  
Project #12-081**

Dear Mr. Galassie:

I am writing to you to express opposition to the proposed new Vista hospital in Lindenhurst. This project will have a negative impact on Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital as well as to the other area providers in Lake County.

As you are aware, according to the HFSRB's need formula, there is no calculated need for additional medical/surgical or obstetrics beds in the A-09 planning area. There are currently six major hospitals providing quality health care in Lake County. These hospitals need to maintain their current patient volumes in order to ensure the critical mass of patients needed to provide subspecialty, as well as basic, healthcare services. A new hospital would dilute the patient volumes for all existing providers.

Additionally, the proposed hospital at Lindenhurst would provide only basic health care services, as opposed to the higher level of services provided at Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital and other area providers. While these basic services are important, they are already provided at all of the existing facilities. This unnecessary duplication of services does nothing to enhance the care available to the planning area residents. The community has long demanded more emergency care (not inpatient care), due to the traffic and travel times in north and western Lake County. This need has already been met by the freestanding emergency centers at Northwestern Grayslake and Vista in Lindenhurst.

Just four years ago, this same hospital proposal was denied for these same reasons. Since that time, several factors make an even stronger case against the building of a new hospital: weakened economy, advances in minimally invasive technology, new healthcare legislation promoting reduced length of stay, prevention of re-admissions and focus on care in outpatient settings.

Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital provides the largest amount of charity care in Lake County (as a percent of net revenue). It is concerning that Vista is proposing to "relocate" beds and resources from their Vista East location to the Lindenhurst location. This "relocation" takes services away from the densely populated and historically underserved populations in Zion, Waukegan, and North Chicago. If Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital's patient volumes are reduced with the addition of a new hospital in the county, it is likely that we will struggle to maintain the high level of charity and discounted care we are proud to have provided for over 100 years, thereby hurting those communities even further. Additionally, potentially reduced patient volumes would impact Northwestern Medicine's plan to bring more specialized care to Lake County which is what is needed here.

With all of these reasons in mind, we at Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital urge the Board to deny this project. Weakening Lake County's current healthcare delivery system just to bring a basic hospital with unnecessary inpatient beds closer to a small population goes against the mission of the HFSRB.

Sincerely,



Marsha Oberrieder  
Vice President, Operations