

Roate, George

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From: Joseph Van Leer [JVanLeer@Polsinelli.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 20, 2012 10:48 AM
To: Roate, George
Cc: Kara Friedman
Subject: Lawndale Dialysis (Proj. No. 12-085) Support Ltrs
Attachments: Lawndale Dialysis Support Ltr (Proj. No. 12-085)_Dr. OGB.pdf; Lawndale Dialysis Support Ltr (Proj. No. 12-085)_Dr. Magana.pdf

NOV 20 2012

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

George,

I've attached 2 support letters we received for Lawndale Dialysis. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks,

Joe

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Ogbonnaya Aneziokoro, M.D
655 West Irving Park Road
Suite 2101
Chicago, IL 60613

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

November 16, 2012

Dale Galassie
Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

RE: Lawndale Dialysis, Project No. 12-085

Dear Chairman Galassie:

I am writing in support of DaVita and Mt. Sinai's proposal to establish Lawndale Dialysis. In the data previously submitted, I included my historical ESRD patient numbers for prior years. My practice has grown tremendously this year and I wanted to make sure that you have my current census of the ESRD patients in the record for the pending Lawndale Dialysis project. Of the Three primary facilities where I round, I am currently treating 172 ESRD patients.

I anticipate that my patient population, and the number of individuals suffering from CKD generally, will continue to increase. CKD is a growing public health problem in the United States. Diabetes and hypertension (high blood pressure) are the two leading causes of CKD and ESRD. Not surprisingly, obesity, is linked to both diabetes and high blood pressure, is also one of driving factors for progressive CKD. As such, my patients, and the community generally, need this facility. Thus, I fully support DaVita and Mt. Sinai's proposed establishment of Lawndale Dialysis and ask that the Board approve this project at the December HFSRB meeting.

Very truly yours,



Ogbonnaya Aneziokoro, M.D.
Nephrologist

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

November 19, 2012

ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dale Galassie, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Support for Lawndale Dialysis (Proj. 12-085)

Dear Chairman Galassie:

I am writing in support of DaVita's proposal to establish a 16-station dialysis facility in the Lawndale community. I am a physician specializing in family medicine and work as a member of the care team at Little Village Dialysis, which is close to the proposed facility.

My mother, Lillian Magana, previously served as the medical director of Little Village Dialysis. She was extremely devoted to her patients and committed to improving access to health care in underserved communities like Lawndale. I share my mother's commitment to Lawndale and strive to follow in her footsteps to improve the health of this community.

While I am a family practitioner, I also serve as a physician extender for Little Village Dialysis. The incidence and prevalence of end stage renal disease (ESRD) continues to rise. This rise is due, in large part, to the aging population, the obesity epidemic and the associated increases in diabetes and hypertension in the general population, and better intervention and pre-ESRD care. Many ESRD patients, particularly, the elderly, suffer multiple co-morbidities that are affected by dialysis and their ESRD treatment. As a result, these patients require closer monitoring, not less. However, due to the shortage of trained nephrologists and increasing demands on their time, nephrologists are spread thin serving larger patient populations and are no longer capable or have the time to manage the day-to-day care of each dialysis patient.

I play a crucial role in the care of our dialysis patients. I spend time and become familiar with our dialysis patients and help manage their dialysis care. I work with patients to devise and implement a care plan that is tailored to their individual needs. I round on patients, monitor lab results, order treatments as needed, and adjust dialyzing times. This enhanced quality and increased interaction with patients often leads to better compliance and higher patient satisfaction.

November 16, 2012

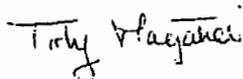
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As a member of the care team at Little Village Dialysis, I am familiar with the patients and the need for a second facility in the Lawndale community to serve the growing need for dialysis. As Dr. OGB has discussed in prior testimony, both Little Village and Mount Sinai have been operating over target capacity for several years. This is problematic for this community where many patients do not have access to private transportation, and it is often more difficult for them to get to their dialysis than patients in more affluent areas. When patients cannot make their dialysis appointments, it results in involuntary non-compliance. Studies have shown patients who miss one or more dialysis sessions per month are at a higher risk for hospitalization and at an increase mortality risk compared to patients who do not miss a dialysis session. If a new facility was located closer to where patients live, it would help alleviate transportation issues, reduce involuntary non-compliance and improve patient outcomes.

Furthermore, because of his increased responsibilities at Little Village, Dr. OGB cannot round on every dialysis patient when they are dispersed at facilities across the City. While I round on many of Dr. OGB's patients and feel I do great job of managing the day-to-day care of these patients, I am not a substitute for Dr. OGB. It is important for the nephrologist to have direct patient contact, to assess the patients' health and better understand their health issues to improve outcomes. A new dialysis facility located proximately to Dr. OGB's office would minimize the amount of time spent traveling to various facilities and would allow Dr. OGB to spend more time with patients and better understand their health issues, which would result in higher patient satisfaction, improved care management, and ultimately better outcomes.

For all of these reasons, I urge the Board to approve the Lawndale Dialysis CON application to improve access to dialysis for this underserved area.

Sincerely,



Tatiana Magana