



Stony Creek Dialysis
6246 W 95th Street
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
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July 2, 2018

RECEIVED

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for Oak Meadows Dialysis, Oak Lawn - Project No. 17-068

Dear Ms. Avery,

Renal Life Link, Inc. d/b/a Stony Creek Dialysis supports the establishment of Oak Meadows Dialysis in Oak Lawn, Illinois. Dialysis clinic demand has increased in recent years due to rising rates of kidney disease as the baby boomer generation ages and co-morbidities associated with ESRD – hypertension and diabetes remain a primary public health problem. We are an existing provider of dialysis services in Oak Lawn and have no capacity to add new ESRD patients to our schedule.

Since we relocated the clinic two years ago, our census has consistently risen and has always been in excess of 80%. We are currently operating at full (99%) utilization and operating four shifts three days a week. This means that some patients are required to receive their treatments late into the evening and other patients must arrive at the clinic at 5:30 in the morning. Patients have trouble with arriving and leaving dialysis when it's dark especially if they have vision or ambulation issues. This especially affects our elderly and frail patients and over half of our patients are 65 or older. Imagine this schedule for our ill grandmothers and grandfathers!

For transportation and to otherwise have dialysis fit into the patients' and their caregivers' lives, people generally have a much easier time accommodating dialysis treatments during the morning shifts. But as it stands, more often than not, patients must receive their care during any slot that is available. Currently, we cannot admit new patients unless a patient moves away or dies, receives a transplant or changes to a home dialysis modality. Through our MATCH-D home



patients to convert to home dialysis and get on (and stay on) the transplant list. We are happy to have those efforts well-received but they are not a solution.

Unfortunately, if a patient misses dialysis for any reason, they can only get back on the schedule for a make-up treatment if another patient is traveling or is hospitalized.

Finally, another dialysis provider is in our old space but we learned that despite only recently opening, they are already operating at 80% utilization.

DaVita leads the industry in treatment outcomes and takes extra steps to ensure patient wellness. We fully support its expansion of services in Oak Lawn.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele Maggi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michele Maggi, Clinic Administrator