

1/29/2019

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

RECEIVED

FEB 04 2019

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Ryan Hamann, I am the Compliance and Construction Manager for Illini Community Hospital in Pittsfield, IL. I am writing to you in reference to Quincy Medical Group's interest in building a surgery center in Quincy, IL. I feel that the State of Illinois should deny the CON for this project.

Quincy is a small market and is currently served by Blessing Health System for these needs. This market is also served by options in Hannibal, MO. I cannot see the point in opening another surgery facility in Quincy and saturating the market. By doing this the result could actually make cost go up for the end user and only provide redundancy.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042 for above stated reasons. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Ryan Hamann
Construction Manager
Illini Community Hospital

01/31/2019

Ms. Courtney R. Avery

Administrator

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Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Michele Hannant a Radiologic Technologist at Illini Community Hospital, I have been a technologist for 24 years at the Blessing Health System. As a long term employee I am very concerned about this proposal that QMG has brought forward. In the Adams and Pike area I strongly feel we are not big enough to support two outpatient surgery clinic's nor is there reason to have two facilities. The facility at 11th and Maine is completely able to handle the volume of patients for our community.

My thoughts behind opposing are the needs for our community as previously stated. I was an employee in the Health System many years ago when Blessing was asked by QMG to oversee the surgery center now that occupies the 11th and Maine facility. Also a concern is having a surgery center away from the hospital in case of an emergency. The travel time could be a real factor in the lives of the patient. Also the revenue would be generated back to the Iowa Health Area and not staying local as with Blessing Health System. I could actually go on about many reasons to not have another surgery center in Quincy however I feel I have stated enough.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042 for a Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele Hannant". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michele Hannant

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Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is John Hull and I am an Imaging Technologist at Illini Community Hospital with specialties in Radiography, CT and Nuclear Medicine. I am writing you to oppose CON 18-042 the Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, IL. I am against this proposal as I believe that it will be bad for the community as a whole as the community is not big enough to support this replication of services. I also feel that this will only do damage to the medical community of Quincy as it will cause both Quincy Medical Group and Blessing Hospital to be in direct competition instead of working together for the betterment of the community. At the current outpatient surgery center owned by Blessing and managed by Quincy Medical group there has been great cooperation between QMG and Blessing and at this new center Blessing would have no role in any capacity in it. This project also has the potential to cause large job losses to the Blessing Health System as a whole which will in turn cause damage to the community as a whole. One of my biggest worries is that much of the revenue from this center will be leaving the community and going to Unity Point health as they hold a large interest in QMG as opposed to staying in the Quincy community as it would be if it were being spent at a Blessing Health System facility. Outpatient surgery is a revenue creator which allows Blessing Health system to offer many Safety net services that are not able to support themselves financially. These include Psychiatric services, both at Blessing Hospital and at Illini Community Hospital. This also includes things such as Medical educational services such as in the Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing and health sciences and in the form of the SIU Family Medicine Residency Program. Many of these programs could have to be cut or at a minimum made smaller due to this loss of revenue which will damage the medical community of Quincy in a large way.

I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Board would deny the CON for the Quincy Medical Group surgery center (CON 18-042) for the reasons stated above.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Hull RT(R)(CT), CNMT". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

John Hull RT(R) (CT), CNMT

01/25/2019

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
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Ms. Courtney R. Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Opposition to CON 18-042, Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center in Quincy, Illinois

Dear Ms. Avery:

My name is Destiney Smith. I am a Registered Nurse Care Manager at Illini Community Hospital in Pittsfield Illinois in their inpatient geriatric psychiatry department called Worthington Square. We are part of the Blessing Health System. Prior to this position I worked and a RN at Blessing Hospital in Quincy Illinois on their Medical-Surgical Oncology floor, or 3 North. During my experiences at both Blessing and Illini I have been fortunate enough to work alongside of some of the best healthcare workers in the area, if not in the nation, from both Blessing Health System and Quincy Medical Group. I believe both facilities and what they have to offer are a crucial piece of our community and an additional, unnecessary surgical center will be detrimental to our area. This is why I why I strongly **oppose** Quincy Medical Group opening a new Surgical Center in Quincy Illinois.

I believe an additional surgical center will be unnecessary and even detrimental to this region because of several reasons. The first reason being duplication of services. Approximately 10 years ago Blessing Health System acquired Quincy Medical Group's surgical center located on Hampshire in Quincy because Quincy Medical Group could not sustain the facility with their funding. The current surgical set up now allows Blessing and Quincy Medical Group surgeons to work together at both Blessing's main campus and well as the surgical center. The current operating margin for surgical services at this time at Blessing are under 50%. Allowing another surgical center to be placed in the city of Quincy would not push costs down like Quincy Medical Group states, but instead increase them because we do not have the capacity of patients to sustain three separate surgical areas. In order to make up costs for both facilities the cost of procedures will need to increase versus decrease.

The new Quincy Medical Group Surgical Center could also be detrimental to the health of our patients in many ways. First being potentially unsafe procedures being performed at a surgical center versus a hospital such as cardiac catheterizations. This procedure is currently done in the hospital and the patient is kept and monitored for several hours or even overnight for complications following the procedures. Allowing for this to be done at a facility several blocks away from a hospital could cause unnecessary deaths in our population in the event a life threatening emergency happens during the procedure and there are no trained or appropriate critical care staff available.

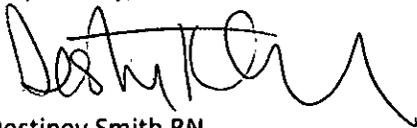
Since Quincy Medical Group is a for profit organization they are not required to take Medicare and Medicaid recipients like Blessing Health System is. This means that less than 50% of their patient population is Medicare recipients and less than 10% are Medicaid recipients. This means that over half of their income comes directly from private insurance. Taking patient away from Blessing Health System

that have private insurance and bringing them to Quincy Medical Group for "lower cost" surgeries will be extremely harmful because Quincy Medical Group is not required to give back any of the money earned to the community and have not in past experience. Blessing could potentially lose income from the private pay insurance companies going to Quincy Medical Group thus leaving them with Medicare and Medicaid only, whom reimburse around 11 cents of a dollar. This is where the importance of having extra money comes in to help cover the Medicare shortfall and still allow us to make charitable contributions to the community. Also, Quincy Medical Group does not have a charity care program available, like Blessing Health System does, that allows any patient, regardless of ability to pay, to be seen and cared for at one of the Blessing Health System facilities. Money to fund this also comes from sources like private insurance companies.

The extra revenue also helps with other aspects of the Blessing Health System such as the behavioral health department and care management department. These departments are not departments that bring in a significant amount of money because they are departments that are there to help those who cannot help themselves or do not have the financial ability to help themselves. Therefore, they rely on that extra revenue to stay running. Behavioral health includes inpatient and outpatient psychiatric services. Quincy Medical Group offer no inpatient psychiatric services and only counseling available to patients, no psychiatry. Blessing Health System offers child to geriatric psych services for both inpatient and outpatient, and are one of the only psychiatric centers in Illinois within about a 70 mile radius. This would mean patients would have to travel a distance away from home to seek treatment options, when it is extremely crucial and potentially life threatening. Care Management is a service offered both inpatient and outpatient and they help manage the patients care. They help in all aspects from finding funding for procedures, medication, housing, utilities, transportation, and just about anything else someone could need. Their goal is to make sure the patient has everything they need so they do not keep returning to the hospital, thus cutting costs for everyone. Without this the potential for readmission increases greatly and that means prices will continue to rise.

After everything I have outline above as to why I am against the new surgical center, I respectfully ask that the Health Facilities and Services Review Board deny CON application 18-042 also known as the Quincy Medical Group Surgery Center. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Destiney Smith", written in a cursive style.

Destiney Smith RN
Care Manager-Worthington Square
Illini Community Hospital-Blessing Health System