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February 13, 2019

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

By Hand Delivery

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

RE: CON Application #18-042 Quincy Medical Group Proposal Surgery Center, Quincy, Illinois

Dear Ms. Avery:

As the project file reflects, QMG filed the above CON application without having first engaged with Blessing Hospital regarding a potential collaboration. Nonetheless, Blessing on its own initiative reached out to QMG to suggest a joint venture. The Blessing Board formally approved a joint venture proposal on February 11, 2019 and that same day Blessing presented the proposal to members of the QMG board and its leadership team. This sincere effort by Blessing to find a collaboration with QMG, at least in the perception of those Blessing representatives who were present at the meeting, was well received by those QMG members in attendance.

Blessing has received no response from QMG other than the favorable reception described above. Moments ago, the Quincy Herald-Whig published an on-line story indicating that QMG has rejected the proposal, and quoted a public statement from QMG that it "will continue to dialogue" with Blessing. Other than this newspaper article, we have heard nothing from QMG. Given that the deadline for written comment is now within the hour, we wish to make the Review Board aware of the status of this "dialogue."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Betty J. Kasparie'.

Betty J. Kasparie
Vice President Corporate Compliance