



STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

525 WEST JEFFERSON ST. • SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62761 • (217) 782-3516 FAX: (217) 785-4111

DOCKET NO: H-11	BOARD MEETING: October 22, 2019	PROJECT NO: 19-045	PROJECT COST:
FACILITY NAME: Fresenius Medical Care Northfield		CITY: Northfield	Original: \$0
TYPE OF PROJECT: Substantive			HSA: VII

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Applicants (Fresenius Medical Care of Illinois, LLC d/b/a Fresenius Medical Care Northfield, Fresenius Medical Care Holdings, Inc.) propose to discontinue a 12-station ESRD facility in Northfield, Illinois. There is no cost to this project. The anticipated completion date is October 31, 2019.

STATE BOARD STAFF REPORT
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Fresenius Medical Care Northfield

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- The Applicants (Fresenius Medical Care of Illinois, LLC d/b/a Fresenius Medical Care Northfield, Fresenius Medical Care Holdings, Inc.) propose to discontinue a 12-station ESRD facility in Northfield, Illinois. There is no cost to this project. The anticipated completion date is October 31, 2019.
- In October 2011 the State Board approved the establishment of a 12-station ESRD facility in Northfield at a cost of \$3.5 million in 8,000 GSF of leased space. The facility was certified on February 14, 2014.

BACKGROUND:

- Public Act 101-0083 effective July 15, 2019 amended the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act and required the discontinuation of a health care facility be submitted as an Application for Permit. This amendment required the State Board to determine if there was a need for the discontinuation. Previously a discontinuation of a health care facility was submitted as an exemption and the State Board had to approve the discontinuation if all the information required by the State Board had been submitted. Evidence of need was not required for an exemption.

WHY THE PROJECT IS BEFORE THE STATE BOARD:

- The proposed project is before the State Board because the project discontinues a health care facility (20 ILCS 3960/8.7).

PUBLIC HEARING/COMMENT:

- No public hearing was requested, and no letters of support or opposition were received by the State Board.

SUMMARY:

- The Applicants have met all the criteria for discontinuation of a health care facility.

STATE BOARD STAFF REPORT
Project #19-045
Fresenius Medical Care Northfield

APPLICATION/ CHRONOLOGY/SUMMARY	
Applicants(s)	Fresenius Medical Care of Illinois d/b/a Fresenius Medical Care Northfield, Fresenius Medical Care Holdings, Inc.
Facility Name	Fresenius Medical Care Northfield
Location	480 Central Avenue, Northfield
Permit Holder	Fresenius Medical Care of Illinois d/b/a Fresenius Medical Care Northfield, Fresenius Medical Care Holdings, Inc.
Operating Entity	Fresenius Medical Care Northfield
Owner of Site	Central Avenue Partners, LP
Application Received	September 20, 2019
Anticipated Completion Date	October 31, 2019

I. Project Description

The Applicants (Fresenius Medical Care of Illinois, LLC d/b/a Fresenius Medical Care Northfield, Fresenius Medical Care Holdings, Inc.) propose to discontinue a 12-station ESRD facility in Northfield, Illinois. There is no cost to this project. The anticipated completion date is October 31, 2019.

II. Summary of Findings

A. State Board Staff finds the proposed project is in conformance with the provisions of 77 ILAC 1110 (Part 1110).

B. 77 ILAC 1120 (Part 1120) is not applicable for projects that have no cost.

III. General Information

The Applicants are Fresenius Medical Care Holdings, Inc and Fresenius Medical Care of Illinois d/b/a Fresenius Medical Care Northfield. Fresenius Medical Holdings, Inc. is a New York corporation and is subsidiary of Fresenius Medical Care AG & Co., a German company. Fresenius Medical Care Holdings, Inc. is the largest provider in the U.S. of kidney dialysis and related services and is the largest private international provider of kidney dialysis and ancillary services with operations in 14 other countries. The Company also offers related services including clinical laboratory and diagnostic testing and imaging services. Fresenius serves patients with low incomes, racial and ethnic minorities, women, handicapped persons, elderly, and other underserved persons in its facilities in the State of Illinois. [Source:2018 Annual Report] This project is subject to a Part 1110 review only.

IV. Health Service Area

Fresenius Medical Care of Illinois, LLC d/b/a Fresenius Medical Care Northfield is in the HSA VII ESRD Planning Area. As of September 2019, there is a calculated excess of 127 ESRD stations in this planning area. HSA VII includes Suburban Cook and DuPage County.

V. Background of the Applicants

A) Criterion 1110.110(a) - Background of the Applicant

To address this criterion the applicants must provide a list of all facilities currently owned in the State of Illinois and an attestation documenting that no adverse actions¹ have been taken against any applicant's facility by either Medicare or Medicaid, or any State or Federal regulatory authority during the 3 years prior to the filing of the Application with the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board or a certified listing of adverse action taken against any applicant's facility; and authorization to the State Board and Agency access to information in order to verify any documentation or information submitted in response to the requirements of the application for permit.

1. A listing of Fresenius Medical Care Dialysis Facilities in Illinois has been provided at pages 71-72 of the Application for Permit. Fresenius has 140 ESRD facilities in the State of Illinois. Average CMS Star Rating² for the Illinois Fresenius facilities that have the necessary data to compile a rating is 3.7.
2. The Applicants provided the necessary attestation that no adverse action has been taken against any facility owned or operated by the Applicants and authorization allowing the State Board and IDPH access to all information to verify information in the Application for Permit. Fresenius has had no history of decertification of its facilities in Illinois. [Application for Permit page 73]
3. Neither the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services nor the Illinois Department of Public Health ("IDPH") has taken any adverse action involving civil monetary penalties or restriction or termination of participation in the Medicare or Medicaid programs against any Illinois health care clinics owned or operated by the Applicants, directly or indirectly, within three years preceding the filing of this application. [Application for Permit page 73]

¹ "Adverse action is defined as a disciplinary action taken by IDPH, CMMS, or any other State or federal agency against a person or entity that owns or operates or owns and operates a licensed or Medicare or Medicaid certified healthcare facility in the State of Illinois. These actions include, but are not limited to, all Type "A" and Type "AA" violations." (77 IAC 1130.140)

² CMS Star Rating system is a rating system developed by Medicare that assigns 1 to 5 stars to dialysis facilities by comparing the health of the patients in their clinics to the patients in other dialysis facilities across the country. Each dialysis center is graded on nine separate health statistics. These include: mortality ratios (deaths), hospitalizations, blood transfusions, incidents of hypercalcemia (too much calcium in the blood), percentage of waste removed during hemodialysis in adults and children, percentage of waste removed in adults during peritoneal dialysis, percentage of AV fistulas, percentage of catheters in use over 90 days. Causes of death and reasons for hospitalization may not necessarily be related to the care at a dialysis facility. The statistics merely represent how many patients who attend that facility died or were hospitalized. Based on these nine statistics, each facility is given a summary rating of 1 to 5 stars. In addition, each facility is graded on a curve and ranked against one another nationwide. This results in clinics being rated in a bell-shaped curve where about 30% of facilities receive only one or two stars, 40% receive 3 stars, and 30% receive 4 or 5 stars. In theory, it's possible that every facility in a bell-shaped curve might deliver good or excellent care. [source: National Kidney Foundation]

4. Organizational relationships can be found at page 63 of the Application for Permit.
5. A Certificate of Good Standing has been provided as required for Fresenius Medical Care Holdings, Inc., as a foreign entity with permission to transact business in the State of Illinois. An Illinois Certificate of Good Standing is evidence that an Illinois business franchise (i.e. Illinois Corporation, LLC or LP) is in existence, is authorized to transact business in the state of Illinois and complies with all state of Illinois business requirements and therefore is in "Good Standing" in the State of Illinois. [Application for Permit page 27]

VI. **Discontinuation**

A) Criterion 1110.290 - Discontinuation

These criteria pertain to the discontinuation of categories of service and health care facilities.

- a) *Information Requirements – Review Criterion*
The applicant shall provide at least the following information:
 - 1) *Identification of the categories of service and the number of beds, if any, that are to be discontinued;*
 - 2) *Identification of all other clinical services that are to be discontinued;*
 - 3) *The anticipated date of discontinuation for each identified service or for the entire facility;*
 - 4) *The anticipated use of the physical plant and equipment after discontinuation occurs;*
 - 5) *The anticipated disposition and location of all medical records pertaining to the services being discontinued and the length of time the records will be retained;*
 - 6) *For applications involving discontinuation of an entire facility, certification by an authorized representative that all questionnaires and data required by HFSRB or the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) (e.g., annual questionnaires, capital expenditures surveys, etc.) will be provided through the date of discontinuation and that the required information will be submitted no later than 60 days following the date of discontinuation.*
- b) *Reasons for Discontinuation – Review Criterion*
The applicant shall document that the discontinuation is justified by providing data that verifies that one or more of the following factors (and other factors, as applicable) exist with respect to each service being discontinued:
 - 1) *Insufficient volume or demand for the service;*
 - 2) *Lack of sufficient staff to adequately provide the service;*
 - 3) *The facility or the service is not economically feasible, and continuation impairs the facility's financial viability;*
 - 4) *The facility or the service is not in compliance with licensing or certification standards.*
- c) *Impact on Access – Review Criterion*
The applicant shall document whether the discontinuation of each service or of the entire facility will have an adverse impact upon access to care for residents of the facility's market area. The facility's market area, for purposes of this Section, is the established radii outlined in 77 Ill. Adm. Code 1100.510(d). Factors that indicate an adverse impact upon access to service for the population of the facility's market area include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - 1) *The service will no longer exist within the established radii outlined in 77 Ill. Adm. Code 1100.510(d) of the applicant facility;*
 - 2) *Discontinuation of the service will result in creating or increasing a shortage of beds or services, as calculated in the Inventory of Health Care Facilities, which is described in 77 Ill. Adm. Code 1100.70 and found on HFSRB's website;*
 - 3) *Facilities or a shortage of other categories of service at determined by the provisions of 77 Ill. Adm. Code 1100 or other Sections of this Part.*
 - 4) *The applicant shall provide copies of notification letters sent to other resources or health care facilities that provide the same services as those proposed for discontinuation and that are located within the established radii outlined in 77 Ill. Adm. Code 1100.510(d). The notification letter*

must include at least the anticipated date of discontinuation of the service and the total number of patients that received care or the number of treatments provided (as applicable) during the latest 24 month period.

The Applicants propose to discontinue a 12-station ESRD facility in Northfield, Illinois. The 4 patients will transfer to other Fresenius facilities in the 5-mile geographical service area. The leased space will be returned to the landlord. Patients medical records will be maintained by Fresenius in accordance with Fresenius’s record retention policy.

According to the Applicants *“the Northfield facility has been operating at an average utilization of 9% over the past six years. Due to this continual adversely low utilization, Fresenius Medical Care has determined that continuing to operate the facility is not economically feasible, and that continuing to operate the facility will impair its financial viability. The 4 current patients have chosen to transfer to one of the nearby Fresenius clinics within this market providing continuity of care. There is currently an excess of 127 stations in HSA 7, which is evident in the Northfield area by the widespread under-utilization. The discontinuation of the Northfield facility will improve the distribution of services in the area.”*

TABLE ONE
ESRD Facilities within 5-miles of Northfield Dialysis

Facility	City	Station	Miles ⁽¹⁾	Utilization ⁽²⁾
Fresenius Kidney Care Northfield	Northfield	12	0	9.72%
Fresenius Kidney Care Glenview	Glenview	20	3.7	60.00%
Fresenius Kidney Care Skokie	Skokie	14	4.1	67.86%
Davita Glenview	Glenview	14	4.1	60.42%
Fresenius Kidney Care Evanston	Evanston	14	5	66.67%
DaVita Evanston Renal Center	Evanston	20	5	90.83%

1. Miles determined by MapQuest
2. Utilization as of June 30, 2019

Impact letters were sent to the ESRD facilities within the 5-mile GSA as required. **Note:** The Board Staff informed the Applicants that the impact letters needed to be sent to facilities in the 5-mile GSA rather than the 84 facilities located in the HSA VII ESRD Planning Area which includes all suburban Cook and DuPage County. The Statute states *“that data and information requests shall not impose undue paperwork burdens on health care facilities and personnel.”* 20 ILCS 3960/13

VII. Safety Net Impact Statement

The Applicants stated the following:

“The discontinuation of Fresenius Medical Care Northfield will not have any impact on safety net services in the Northfield area of Cook County in HSA 7. Outpatient dialysis services are not typically considered "safety net" services, however, we do provide care for patients in the community who are economically challenged and/or who are

undocumented who do not qualify for Medicare/Medicaid and qualify under FMCNA's Indigent Waiver policy. We assist patients who do not have insurance in enrolling when possible in Medicare, Medicaid or insurance on the Healthcare Marketplace. Also, our social services department assists patients who have issues regarding transportation and/or mobility needs with making arrangement for transport to and from the unit. Since it is anticipated that all patients are choosing to transfer to area Fresenius clinics, patients will maintain access to these services. This application will not have an impact on any other safety net provider in the area, as no hospital within the area provides dialysis services on an outpatient basis.”

Charity (self-pay) and Medicaid Information for the Fresenius Illinois Facilities is provided in the Table below.

TABLE TWO			
Fresenius Medical Care Holding Inc.			
Illinois Facilities			
Charity (self-pay) and Medicaid Information			
	2016	2017	2018
Net Revenue	\$449,611,411	\$460,678,799	\$436,811,409
CHARITY			
Charity (# of self-pay patients)	233	280	294
Charity (self-pay) Cost	\$3,269,127	\$4,598,897	5,295,686
% of Charity Care to Net Rev.	0.72%	.98%	1.21%
MEDICAID			
Medicaid (Patients)	396	320	328
Medicaid (Revenue)	\$7,310,484	\$4383383	\$6,630,014
% of Medicaid to Net Revenue	0.97%	1.43%	1.52%
1. As a for-profit corporation Fresenius does not provide charity care per the Board's definition. Numbers reported are self-pay. Self-pay balances are written off to bad debt. Medicare may reimburse a portion of bad debt as part of cost reporting.			

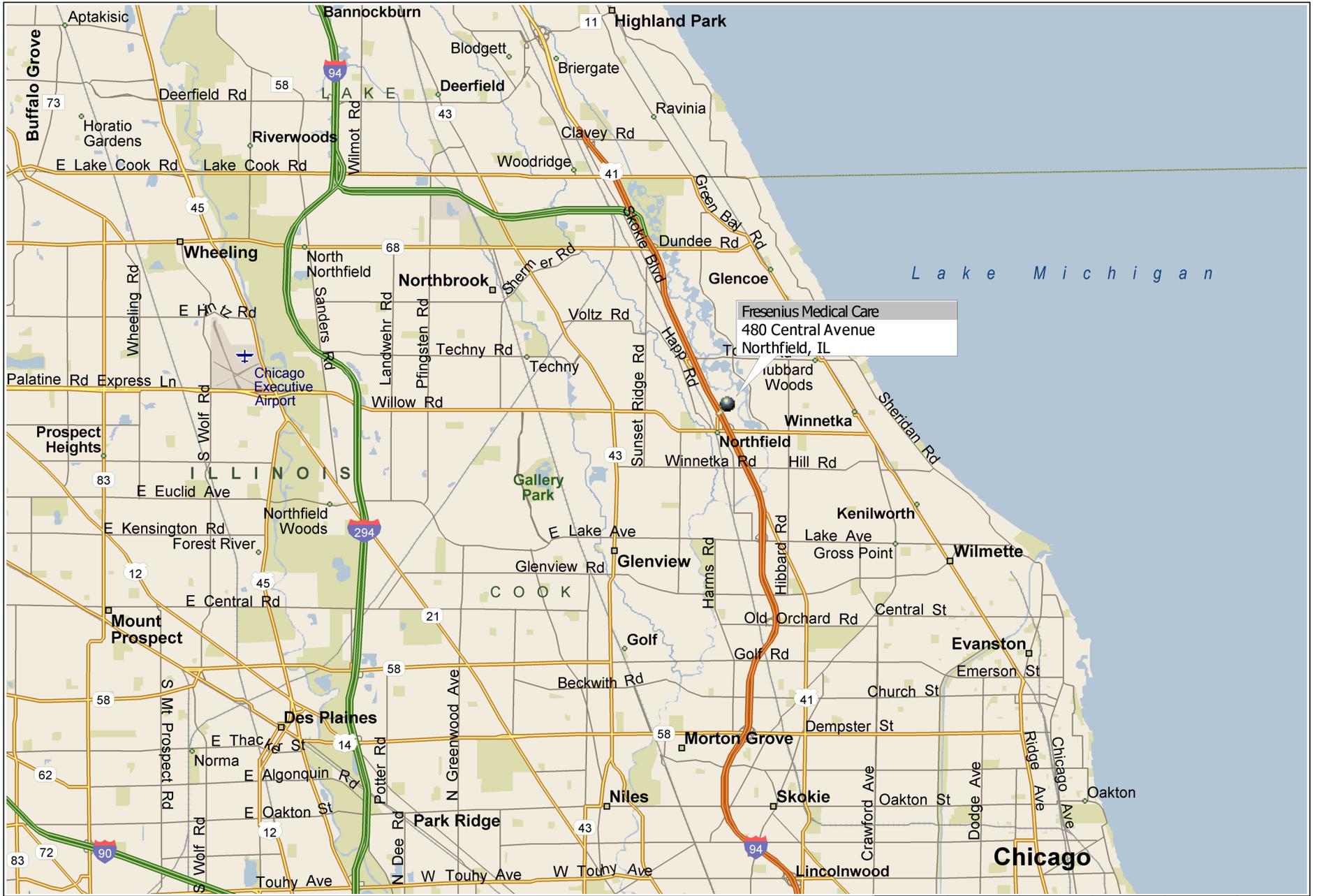
VIII. Statute

Health Facilities Planning Act (20 ILCS 3960/8.7)

Application for permit for discontinuation of a health care facility or category of service; public notice and public hearing.

- (a) Upon a finding that an application to close a health care facility or discontinue a category of service is complete, the State Board shall publish a legal notice on 3 consecutive days in a newspaper of general circulation in the area or community to be affected and afford the public an opportunity to request a hearing. If the application is for a facility located in a Metropolitan Statistical Area, an additional legal notice shall be published in a newspaper of limited circulation, if one exists, in the area in which the facility is located. If the newspaper of limited circulation is published on 3 consecutive days. The legal notice shall also be posted on the Health Facilities and Services Review Board's website and sent to the State Representative and State Senator of the district in which the health care facility is located. In addition, the health care facility shall provide notice of closure to the local media that the health care facility would routinely notify about facility events.
- (b) No later than 30 days after issuance of a permit to close a health care facility or discontinue a category of service, the permit holder shall give written notice of the closure or discontinuation to the State Senator and State Representative serving the legislative district in which the health care facility is located.
- (c) If there is a pending lawsuit that challenges an application to discontinue a health care facility that either names the Board as a party or alleges fraud in the filing of the application, the Board may defer action on the application for up to 6 months after the date of the initial deferral of the application.
- (d) The changes made to this Section by this amendatory Act of the 101st General Assembly shall apply to all applications submitted after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 101st General Assembly.

19-045 Fresenius Medical Care Northfield - Northfield



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