Mr. Michael Constantino
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, Illinois 62761

RECEIVED
MAY 28 2020
HEALTH FACILITIES & SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

RE: Additional Information for Project #20-017

Dear Mr. Constantino:

Thank you for your email regarding Project #20-017. I appreciate your review and am pleased to see that there has not been any opposition to the project nor was there a request for public hearing. In response to your specific inquiries, please see the attached tables containing the requested information.

MESC has a track record of providing excellent service at a fraction of the cost of local hospitals to the indigent population. Because we're not a tax-exempt entity, we do not track uncompensated care in our books and records nor as a line item in our financial statements. However, I would estimate one of every 10 patients that we accept has no means to pay, but we accept them anyway out of moral obligation. Based on the historical scope of our procedures performed, we'd estimate that our center constitutes 60% of uncompensated care and Medicaid in the area. Years back the Board placed its confidence in our facility to help the indigent and to fulfill a niche service the local hospitals were unwilling to provide, and we came through on our promise. We perform charity care. We perform free services for patients who can't afford these surgeries elsewhere. Though MESC is small, we are the largest single provider of care to Medicaid in South Illinois, and we will continue to do that for years to come.

With the pandemic and the related economic crisis, everything has changed since February when the other CON expansion request was approved. Everything. The pandemic will at best last for 12 to 18 months and, at worst, for years. Hospitals are prioritizing their care for COVID patients but beginning May 11th, providers in-non-COVID zones can now provide non-urgent but essential care. A surgery center is one of the best clinical solutions to the crisis. Moving elective surgeries to an outpatient setting is something that should have been done years ago on a large scale basis. It was the right thing to do in the past. It is a necessity now. We would like to play a small but meaningful part for our community to support the availability of quality, cost-efficient care during these times and going forward. In fact, we have already begun performing orthopedic surgeries at our center under our temporary authorization during the pandemic. This CON permit would simply allow us to continue caring for these patients for years to come.

By adding Orthopedic Surgery to our center, we will help ensure that Illinois residents can get the care they need in Illinois rather than having to travel to Missouri for the care they require. Some of the Illinois communities on the Missouri border near St. Louis more generally have developed tremendously in the past 20 years. Shiloh has doubled in size and O'Fallon has increased by nearly one-third in population. With a significant population base, health care resources should be developed locally so we don't have to send patients across state lines. Owing to multiple reasons including infections, patient apprehension and overflow issues, patients need care that only a well-equipped and well-placed surgery center away from COVID-19 care can provide.

Please feel free to contact Kara Friedman or me as needed.

Sincerely,

Shakeel Ahmed, M.D.

Attachment

TABLE ONE		
Calendar Year	2019	
	Number of	
Surgical Specialty	Cases	Hours
General Surgery	6	4.25
Gastroenterology	3,645	1,336.5
Obstetrics/Gynecology	0	0
Ophthalmology	0	0
Pain Management	0	0
Plastic Surgery	10	9
Podiatric Surgery	0	0

TABLE TWO		
	Dollars	Number of Patients
Medicaid	$196,125	718
Medicare	$386,205	1,183
Other Public	$119,345	229
Insurance	$1,316,938	1,501
Private Pay	$20,900	30
Charity Care	$0	0
Total	$2,039,513	3,661

TABLE THREE			
Name of Physician	Specialty	Cases	Hours
Shakeel Ahmed	Gastroenterology	3,645	1,336.5
Howard Lederer	General Surgery	3	2.25
Kurt Sprunger	General Surgery	3	2.25
Stanley Librach	Plastic Surgery	10	9

DISTRICT OFFICE:
312 S. HIGH ST.
BELLEVILLE, IL 62220
(618) 416-7407
(618) 416-7409 FAX

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:
300 CAPITOL BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62706
(217) 782-0104

COMMITTEES:
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JUDICIARY - CIVIL
JUDICIARY - CRIMINAL
LABOR AND COMMERCE
PUBLIC UTILITIES

JAY C. HOFFMAN

ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE · 113TH DISTRICT

January 3, 2020

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street
2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the addition of Orthopedic Surgery to the Metroeast Endoscopic Surgery Center, (MESC) in Fairview Heights. MESC continues to offer excellent health care to many of the families living, not only in Fairview Heights, but many communities extending well beyond St. Clair County. MESC has been a benchmark of medical care and has done so for over ten years in my Legislative District 113.

Healthcare costs continue to rise at an unprecedented rate. Families in my District and across the State want affordable and the highest quality healthcare for themselves and their families. MESC has provided those services and continues to be accredited by the Joint Commission based on the quality of services it delivers. Even with insurance coverage, deductibles and co-pays can be devasting to a family's budget. Orthopedic Surgery would be a welcome addition to the services already offered at this facility considering the cost savings and convenience it would offer families.

I am very excited that constituents would have access to Orthopedic services at MESC, which as a facility has a track record of care and offers significant cost savings to patients and insurance companies.

Sincerely,

Jay C. Hoffman
State Representative
113th District

SOYBEAN INKS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT OFFICE:
4700 STATE ST. SUITE 2
EAST ST. LOUIS, ILLINOIS 62205
618/646-9557
618/646-9558 FAX

CAPITOL OFFICE:
265-S STRATTON BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
217/782-5951

EMAIL: STATEREPGREENWOOD@GMAIL.COM

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- FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
- POLICE & FIRST RESPONDERS

LATOYA GREENWOOD
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
114TH DISTRICT

December 28, 2019

Illinois Facilities and Healthcare Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street
2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the addition of Orthopedic Surgery to the Metroeast Endoscopic Surgery Center, (MESC) in Fairview Heights. MESC has been a benchmark of medical care and provided excellent patient care nearly twenty years here in the Metro East, for many of the constituents served in my district.

The socio-economic status in our District, 114, ranges from families living well below the federal poverty level to those living 200 percent above the federal poverty level. Regardless of socio economic status of the families I serve, quality, affordable healthcare is a consistent request of those discussing and seeking medical services. Cost of healthcare continues to be an extremely important topic of conversation of both consumers and payers of healthcare services. The charges at MESC are significantly lower, nearly 50%, than the same hospital-based services. Patients benefit and the insurers alike benefit from services being provided at ambulatory care centers. My office is in full support the addition of Orthopedic Surgery to MESC and appreciates the services already provided at facility.

The families in my district demand both quality and cost-effective alternatives for all of the healthcare services they require. MESC provides both. We look forward to a favorable decision in adding orthopedic services to the scope of services at MESC.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Latoya Greenwood
State Representative of the 114th District

RECYCLED PAPER • SOYBEAN INKS

SIHF HEALTHCARE
YOUR HEALTH. OUR MISSION.

January 14, 2020

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Services Review Board,

This purpose of this letter is to document my support for Metroeast Endoscopic Surgery Center (MESC) in order for them to provide expansion of their services to include; orthopedics, podiatry, ophthalmology, and pain management services and to request that the board give their application favorable consideration. These expanded services would be a much needed and welcomed addition to the services already offered at this innovative and outstanding facility. This facility can offer cost savings and convenience for our mutual patients. Because MESC has provided more timely consultations and outstanding care to our patients in the past, I am very enthusiastic that our patients would benefit from these additional services at MESC. Additionally, their facility has established a great reputation and track record for quality care.

I have had the opportunity to refer patients to MESC and have been impressed by the prompt and courteous patient care services they have received as reflected in positive feedback from both patient and patient family testimonials. The surgery center delivers excellent and timely care for each patient and has always been and will continue to be an integral part of the healthcare network here in the Metro East. Specialty services are in great demand by my patients, so by adding these services to MESC there will be greater access to specialty care for my patients who currently have unacceptable delays in referral waiting periods.

The majority of my patients are Medicaid recipients thus have had problems with prompt access to regional specialists. The MESC has helped alleviate this problem because they have managed Medicaid contracts. Therefore, I overwhelming endorse the expansion of their patient care services.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of additional assistance in your review process.
My office number is 618-337-2597 and my exchange number is 618-398-9666.

Sincerely,

J. Magner, M.D.

John Magner, M.D.

Family Physician & Chair, Adult & Family Medicine Department, SIHF Healthcare
Fellow, American Academy of Family Physicians
Medical Director, St. Clair County Health Department, Belleville, Illinois
Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine,
St. Louis University School of Medicine

100 North 8th Street, Suite 232, East St. Louis, IL 62201 | P: 618-337-2597 | F: 618-337-2930

January 2, 2020

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Orthopedic Services added to Metroeast Endoscopic Surgery Center

To Whom It May Concern:

Medicate Pharmacy is pleased to support the Metroeast Endoscopic Surgery Center's, (MESC) application to add Orthopedic services to the surgery center in Fairview Heights. Through its current services, MESC has has been a committed organization working to improve the lives of the citizens in St. Clair County, the Metro East, and this region, by offering and delivering quality and affordable services.

As President and CEO of Medicate Pharmacy, I understand firsthand, the need for patients and patient families to have options for quality, affordable healthcare services. Medicate Pharmacy has served the metro east for over 30 years and continues to provide quality services to patients. Through the years I also know that MESC, like Medicate Pharmacy, gives families the choice for excellent quality services at convenient and accessible locations. We also serve many of the same families. We appreciate the past efforts and fully support MESC's application to add orthopedics to its current scope of services.

Affordable, quality services, continue to be at the forefront of healthcare discussions and debate. MESC's efforts are applauded and supported by Medicate Pharmacy. Please do not hesitate to call me if I can be of further assistance with MESC's application.

Sincerely,

Mike Schaltenbrand, President/ CEO
Medicate Pharmacy

CHESTNUT
HEALTH SYSTEMS
chestnut.org

January 3rd, 2020

Dr. Shakeel Ahmed
Chief Executive Officer
Metroeast Endoscopic Surgery Center
5023 North Illinois Street
Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208

Dear Dr. Ahmed:

This letter reflects Chestnut Health Systems support of Metroeast Endoscopic Surgery Center, (MESC) application to the Illinois Facilities and Healthcare Review Board to add Orthopedic Surgery to the scope of services and surgeries offered at MESC.

Chestnut Health Systems is a federally qualified health center, (FQHC) providing services in several local communities with serious health disparities. Access to all services, including orthopedic care, is important to all families we serve. Access to affordable services especially specialty care is also important for families and individuals to ensure all of their healthcare needs are met. As an FQHC, Chestnut Health Systems provides primary healthcare, including dental services, behavioral health and OB/GYN care. Many of those we serve also require specialty care referrals. Having surgical services provided at ambulatory surgery centers, like MESC, allows our clients to have quality as well as much more affordable care choices and options.

As a provider that cares for persons with chronic medical and behavioral health conditions Chestnut Health Systems is committed to ensure our families are provided the best choices to access all levels of care including the current services and proposed Orthopedic service at MESC.

Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Orville Mercer
Vice President of Strategy and Innovation
Chestnut Health Systems

50 Northgate Industrial Drive
Granite City, Illinois 62040-6852

Phone: (618) 877-4420 TTY: (618) 877-9920
Fax: (618) 877-9250 (Client Records)

East Side Health District

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East St Louis, IL 62205
(618) 874-4713
Fax: (618) 271-0754

Members of Board
Mark Kern
Vanessa Chapman
Alvin Parks
Norman Miller
Curtis McCall

Attorney
Phillip Rice

December 29, 2019

Dr. Shakeel Ahmed
Chief Executive Officer
Metroeast Endoscopic Surgery Center
5023 North Illinois Street
Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208

Dear Dr. Ahmed:

This letter confirms East Side Health District's support of your Metroeast Endoscopic Surgery Center, (MESC) application to the Illinois Facilities and Healthcare Review Board to add Orthopedic Surgery as an additional service offered at MESC, in Fairview Heights Illinois.

As you know, East Side Health District serves patients and families throughout St. Clair County and the Metro East, and is committed to helping patients access all services of the best quality and in the most cost-efficient setting. Access to all services, including orthopedic care, is important to all families we serve. Access to affordable services, especially specialty care, is also important for families and individuals to ensure that all of their healthcare needs are met. Many of those we serve also require specialty care referrals. Having surgical services provided at ambulatory surgery centers, like MESC, allows our clients to have quality as well as more affordable care choices and options.

Orthopedic Surgery would be a welcomed addition to the services already offered at this great facility considering the cost savings and convenience it would offer our patients. The addition of Orthopedic Surgery at MESC would help to further close the healthcare gap for our clients.

Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Patton-Whiteside

Elizabeth Patton-Whiteside, RN, BSN, MBA
Public Health Administrator
East Side Health District

GRACE CHURCH

+1(618) 234-5910
+1(618) 234-5975
www.graceweb.tv
gracecentral@graceweb.tv
5151 North Illinois
Fairview Heights, IL 62208

January 14, 2020

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

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to write in support of the Metroeast Endoscopic Surgery Center's request to add new health services to its location Fairview Heights. We recently learned of MESC's plan to add orthopedic, pain management, podiatry and ophthalmology services to the current services provided. Through the years, MESC has been a stable and excellent provider of health services in this community. MESC continues to be a great resource to the families of our community including some of the members who (probably) attend our church.

MESC accepts most insurance plans and does not refuse care to the uninsured or under insured. MESC and its staff seem to have a genuine sense of community and has a reputation of providing exceptional care at lower cost than the same services offered in a hospital setting.

We at Grace Church wholeheartedly support the addition of these services proposed by MESC. Our campus is within a block of MESC and we see firsthand the value MESC provides to many people. At Grace Church, as is true in the community at large, families want the opportunity to select healthcare in a setting that provides excellent quality, and is not cost prohibitive. Based on MESC's undeniable impact and long-standing presence in Fairview Heights we anticipate a favorable decision for these additional needed services.

Sincerely,

Dr. Phil Silsby
Chairman of the Board
Grace Church

January 14, 2020

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Review Board Committee:

I am writing give my support for Metroeast Endoscopic Surgery Center's, (MESC) desire to add orthopedics, podiatry, ophthalmology and pain management to its services and to ask the board to give favorable consideration in its evaluation of the application. These additional services would be a welcome addition to the services already offered by MESC. MESC provides quality services to our patients, and I eagerly await the possible addition of these much-needed services at MESC.

Patients that I refer to MESC are pleased with the care they have received from the physicians and the professionalism from each staff member that supports the physicians. I am extremely confident in the current services that MESC provides to patients I refer. I have no doubt that the planned orthopedic, ophthalmology, pain management, and podiatry services will be offered at the same excellent level of quality and care for every patient treated there.

MESC provides excellent and timely care for our community and continues to be a very important part of the healthcare network in this region. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any further assistance in the application process for Metroeast Endoscopic Surgery Center and Dr. Shakeel Ahmed.

Sincerely,

Dr. Daniel Brunkhorst, D.C.

Esquire Orthopedic Rehabilitation and Sports Medicine
Owner/Operator

January 2, 2020

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St. Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to lend my support to, Metroeast Endoscopic Surgery Center, (MESC) for the addition of Orthopedic Surgery at their facility. I would like the board to strongly consider this addition to the facility because as a patient of Center for Gastrointestinal Health and Metroeast Endoscopic Surgery Center, I firsthand can attest that this facility is providing excellent service to the people of Southern Illinois and the addition of this much needed subspecialty would be a welcome service for our area.

In addition to me being a patient, I have also served as a board member for a non-profit healthcare provider in the Metro East. I know firsthand the importance of having centers like MESC that provide and improve access to specialty services with excellent quality and cost efficiency.

Please accept my full support for this facility.

Yours truly,

Arthur Johnson

God Inspired Apostolic Church
3911 State Street
East St. Louis, IL 62205
Ph. (618) 670-5430

December 31, 2019

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St. 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

To Whom It May Concern:

I was recently informed that Metroeast Surgery Center is processing a request to add Orthopedic Surgery to its facility. Family members have utilized services at the surgery center for screenings in the past and I was very pleased with the service we received.

I cannot tell you how much I am in favor of the idea, because the cost of Orthopedic Surgery in hospitals can be prohibitive to many citizens in this region and an alternative option like Metroeast Endoscopic Surgery Center, would be a welcome addition. The center is very accessible versus the multiple floors and elevators typical of many hospitals. Many seniors and their caregivers, who are sometimes older and sicker themselves, find it very inconvenient to navigate to a large hospital campus. It is ideal ff these services were available and performed locally at a facility which has a great track record of care and amazing cost savings to patients and insurances.

I am in full support of this application and put our support behind it. I am very excited to hear that Orthopedic Surgery is going to be added to Metroeast Endoscopic Surgery Center and fully support it.

Signed,

Mary A Young

Pastor Mary Young
God Inspired Apostolic Church

April 13, 2020

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

Re: Support for Expansion of Metroeast Surgery Center

Dear Mr. Sewell,
I'm reaching out to express my support for the proposed addition of orthopedic specialty at Metroeast Endoscopic Surgery Center (MESC). With St. Elizabeth's Hospital and Physicians' Surgical Center both relocating from nearby Belleville to O'Fallon, Illinois, it is critical that MESC add this surgical service to ensure the needs of patients in Fairview Heights and Belleville are met.

Also, as the population in my community continues to age, demand for surgical services will no doubt increase as well. It is vital that MESC is able to provide a broad array of specialties to address more of these ailments and treat the entire individual.

I encourage the Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board to approve this important project to support access to high quality, cost effective surgical care.

Respectfully,

Meghan Kreher
13 A S Belleville ST
Freeburg, IL. 62243

4/13/2020

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

I would like to lend my support to MESC for the addition of Orthopedic Surgery at their facility. I would like the board to strongly consider this addition to the facility because as a patient of Center for Gastrointestinal Health and Metroeast Endoscopic Surgery Center I firsthand can attest that this facility is providing excellent service to our area and the addition of these much needed services would be very welcome in our area. Please accept my full support for this facility.

Regards,

Cathy Schilling

CATHY SCHILLING
4005 AUTUMN OAK DR.
SMITHTON, IL. 62285

April 13, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Sewell,

Please approve the recent Certificate of Need application filed by Metroeast Endoscopic Surgery Center to add orthopedic surgery services in Fairview Heights. As a satisfied patient, I appreciate being able to have surgery in an ambulatory surgical center where services often cost 25% of what they would if performed in a hospital. These lower costs help everyone, patients like me and our employers who pay for expensive health care. Further, I much prefer the convenient ASC setting over having to navigate a hospital campus to obtain these services.

For many folks in my community, the Fairview Heights surgery center is the only option for receiving this convenient, lower cost care, as it is the only ASC in the area for which Medicaid patients constituted a large portion of its cases. This surgery center serves nearly a 1,000 Medicaid patients every year. It would be great to expand access to Medicaid patients by increasing the number of specialties available at MESC.

For these reasons, I wish to lend my support to MESC's application, and I respectfully request the HFSRB approve it

Best regards,

M T Wolff
Maria Wolff
2 Doe Run Trail
Collinsville, Il. 62234