Prairie Cardiovascular

The Doctors of Prairie

Springfield
619 East Mason Street
Suite 4P57
Springfield, IL 62701
217 788 0706

401 East Carpenter Street
Springfield, IL 62702
217 788 0706

O'Fallon
Three St. Elizabeth's Boulevard
Suite 2800
O'Fallon, IL 62269
618 233 6044

Decatur
1800 East Lake Shore Drive
Suite 1500
Decatur, IL 62521
217 422 6100

2965 North Main Street
Suite D
Decatur, IL 62526
217 422 6100

Effingham
503 North Maple Street
Effingham, IL 62401
217 342 3700

Carbondale
409 West Oak Street
Carbondale, IL 62901
618 529 4455

301 South Park Avenue
Herrin, IL 62948
618 529 4455

Mattoon
1000 Health Center Drive
Suite 107
Mattoon, IL 61938
217 238 4960

8/28/2020

RECEIVED
AUG 31 2020
HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Re: Opposition to C.O.N. Project #20-030

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Prairie Cardiovascular, I am well acquainted with the need and demand for healthcare services in Effingham county, a community Prairie has served for over 30 years. I am sending this letter to voice my concerns regarding the pending C.O.N. Application No. 20-030 by Sarah Bush Lincoln Health System and Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center to build a free standing 65,400 sq. foot building to replace the Bonutti clinic building. I strongly urge opposing this application.

The massive size of this proposed project will result in significant redundancies in services. With critical shortages in nursing and other ancillary staff, HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital's ability to continue its present services could be severely jeopardized because of the greater staffing demands that would unnecessarily be placed upon this area's limited staffing pool. This duplication of services will also have significant financial impact for St. Anthony's that would jeopardize current jobs and have a negative impact upon the community benefit contributions provided to the people of Effingham county by St. Anthony's Hospital which in FY 20 accounted for over $11 million dollars in direct community support.

In several interviews, Sarah Bush Lincoln President and CEO Jerry Esker stated, "I'm looking out my window at a brand-new multimillion dollar building that HSHS St. Anthony just built a mile from Sarah Bush." However, the building that Mr. Esker is referencing is 1/5th the size of the facility proposed in project #20-030 and was constructed in a cost-effective manner that was well below the threshold for a certificate of need. Additionally, the facility was constructed only to ensure the community of Coles county had continued access to cardiology, electrophysiology, and vascular services after Mr. Esker and Sarah Bush Lincoln terminated a long-standing, exclusive professional services agreement with Prairie Cardiovascular.

In the absence of community need secondary to duplication of services, financial impact to St. Anthony's hospital, increased tension on already limited staffing pools, and potential for significant reduction in available direct community benefit from St. Anthony's hospital, the HFSRB should deny this application.

Sincerely,

John A. Scherschel, MD, FACC, FHRS
President, Prairie Cardiovascular