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HEALTH FACILITIES \*  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Via Email, Overnight Delivery and Certified U.S. Mail

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

Karen Senger, RN, BSN  
Division Chief  
Illinois Department of Public Health  
Division of Health Care Facilities and  
Programs  
535 West Jefferson  
4th Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761-0001

**Re: MetroSouth Medical Center, Blue Island:  
Notice of Temporary Suspension of Facility**

Dear Ms. Avery and Ms. Senger:

This letter is to provide written notice of a temporary suspension of MetroSouth Medical Center, Blue Island ("MetroSouth") pursuant to 77 Ill. Adm. Code 1130.240(d). The facility's last inpatient was discharged on September 26, 2019 and all services have been temporarily suspended including the following Categories of Service: Medical/Surgical; Intensive Care Unit; Obstetrics; Acute Mental Illness; and, Cardiac Catheterization (which had previously been temporarily suspended with required notice). The temporary suspension of the facility is due to the loss of appropriate staff to safely operate the services, including the loss of the general surgery physician group which ceased taking consults for surgery effective September 20, 2019 and resigned from the facility's medical staff effective September 23, 2019. Patient care and safety has been MetroSouth's highest priority and the temporary suspension of the facility is necessary at this time as the lack of requisite staffing has rendered the continued provision of adequate services in a safe manner impossible.

MetroSouth filed an exemption application on June 11, 2019 to discontinue the entire hospital facility. The exemption application was deemed complete on June 12, 2019 and, under the provisions of the Health Facilities Planning Act and Review Board Regulations under which this application is being processed, the requested exemption "shall be" issued subsequent to the completeness finding within 60 days. The application was initially scheduled for the August 6, 2019 meeting of the Health Facilities and Services Review Board ("Review Board"), but was subsequently scheduled for the September 17, 2019 Review Board meeting. At that meeting, and over the objection of MetroSouth, the Review Board voted to defer action on the exemption application.

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Karen Senger, RN, BSN  
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There is currently no plan to reopen MetroSouth as the entire facility will be discontinued shortly after Review Board approval of the exemption application.

The entrances to the facility have been blocked. Former patients can continue to access medical records as they have in the past through processes currently in place and notices will be provided when that process changes. Please note that MetroSouth has reached out to the Illinois Department of Public Health (“IDPH”) on a near daily basis from the time the Review Board deferred action on MetroSouth’s exemption application to discontinue the facility in order to seek IDPH’s guidance and assistance in the orderly wind down and closure of MetroSouth. While IDPH has not spoken with us in response to those requests, MetroSouth remains ready and willing to speak with IDPH to facilitate an orderly wind down and closure of the facility, and renews its request to do so.

Very truly yours,

BARNES & THORNBURG LLP



Daniel J. Lawler

cc: Junaid Afeef, Asst. General Counsel, IDPH and Acting General Counsel, IHFSRB  
Sunil Bhawe, Assistant Attorney General  
John Walsh, CEO, MetroSouth Medical Center

DJL:dp