

Community Bank

April 10, 2012

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



MAY 09 2012

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Re: E-002-12, Integration of Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

Mr. Constantino and members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board:

I am writing in full support of the integration of Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital into The Carle Foundation. From my perspective, there is much for the community to gain through this expanded partnership.

Hoopeston Memorial already has a strong affiliation with Carle for patient referrals as well as emergency treatment which has greatly benefitted area residents. The integration will strengthen the ability of the organizations to ensure continuity of care, whether patients receive treatment in Hoopeston or Urbana because both will be able to use the same standards and use an electronic medical record. The affiliation will also allow Hoopeston Memorial to participate in Carle's quality initiatives to further improve care for patients who live in this area.

As President/CEO of Community Bank, as a member of several civic organizations and being in the community for thirty-eight years, I see the need for local healthcare every day. Our community consists of many senior citizens and low income families who are hindered by transportation issues. Having a local healthcare facility is a must.

Coming together is necessary to ensure that Hoopeston Memorial is operated in a financially sustainable manner. Having been close to the operation of the Hospital for many years, I have seen the daily financial struggles. More than once in the past, the Hoopeston Area Healthcare Foundation has had to back loans in order for the Hospital to make payroll. The current State of Illinois budget crisis only compounds the financial struggles for Hoopeston Memorial.

This area has been hit with economic losses. The Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital continues to be a bright spot for the community. With Carle's added presence, that will only be elevated. The opportunity to improve the facilities and technology as well as preserving or even adding jobs will have a significant impact for this area.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Nicholls".

William Nicholls
President/CEO

MAIN OFFICE
221 Bank Street
P.O. Box 70
Hoopeston, IL 60942
(217) 283-7733 • FAX: (217) 283-7665

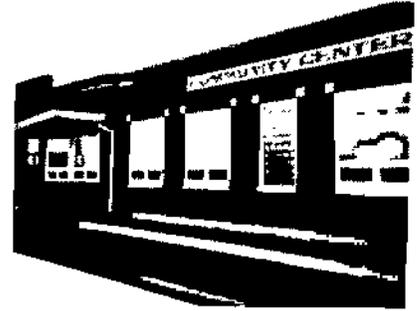
HOOPESTON FACILITY
Rts. 1 & 9 • P.O. Box 70
Hoopeston, IL 60942
(217) 283-9723 • FAX: (217) 283-9722
Bookkeeping: (217) 283-5500

COMMUNITY CENTER

A Program Of Hoopeston Multi Agency Service Center

206 S. First Avenue
Hoopeston, Illinois 60942
(217) 283-5544

Executive Director, Chalmers E. Flint



April 13, 2012

To whom it may concern:

With an aging population and growing need for health care services in the Hoopeston area, I write to appeal to this board for approval of the integration between Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital and The Carle Foundation. An expanded partnership will strengthen this critical access hospital and ensure that healthcare continues to be available here.

Members of the community already rely upon both organizations, but often must travel more than an hour to receive treatment at Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana. With plans to provide more specialty care in Hoopeston, our community will most certainly benefit. As a recognized leader in the state and region, Carle will be able to help people in Hoopeston get care when they need it and help the community to be healthier overall.

The University of Wisconsin conducted a study in 2010 of the County Health Rankings (Mobilizing Action Toward Community Health) in Illinois. They found that Vermilion County residents were in the worst health condition of every county in the State of Illinois. The summary of Health Outcomes and Health Factors Rankings: Health Outcomes represent how healthy a county is while Health Factors are what influences the health of the county. The scale ran from 1 to 101 with the best rated at 1 and the worst at 101. They found Vermilion County to rank 96 out of 101 counties for health outcomes and 97 out of 101 for health factors. The study also measured mortality (length of life) and morbidity (health-related quality of life and birth outcomes). Vermilion ranked the highest again with a ranking of 91 in Mortality and 101 in Morbidity on a scale of 101. The study of clinical care (access to health care) reported that Vermilion County ranked 62 out of 101 however; Hoopeston is located in the northern part of Vermilion County twenty five mile away from access to health care. Therefore, it is imperative that Hoopeston Hospital be allowed to continue to grow in staff and technical support.

Hoopeston Hospital must not only remain in the community, but should have the opportunity to expand services and ensure its viability for years to come. With the proposed partnership, our community can be assured that more physicians will be available, improved technology will be used for diagnosis and enhanced clinical standards will be used to provide high quality care. Integration between Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital and Carle Foundation Hospital is the best way to address the long-term needs of Hoopeston, Vermilion County and the surrounding area.

Respectfully,


Chalmers E. Flint

HOOPESTON AREA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #11



Cheneyville

East Lynn

Hoopeton

Rankin

Wellington

Larry Maynard, Principal

Kay Brown, Guidance Counselor

Michl Kearney, Dean of Students

April 17, 2012

To whom it may concern:

This letter is in support of Hoopeton Regional Health Center and Carle Foundation Hospital coming together as an integrated organization. Just as a community needs a strong school, Hoopeton and the surrounding towns need this hospital to be as strong as possible. If integration is approved, the hospital will be stronger as a result of resources available through Carle.

As the Principal of Hoopeton Area High School, I see a strong need for this in the community. The Hoopeton Regional Health Center has partnered with the school district in the past five years to bring resources and opportunities for our students, school, and community that has added value. It has been an excellent partnership that we appreciate and need. I anticipate this integration would only increase these resources and opportunities for our school district and local community.

Hoopeton Regional Health Center provides critical support. The hospital undertakes activities that assist vulnerable populations such as the growing number of uninsured. Many services are made available with no financial benefit to the hospital. The affiliation with Carle will help provide even more services that might otherwise never be initiated. This could include community health improvement programs such as health fairs and screenings and also community health education.

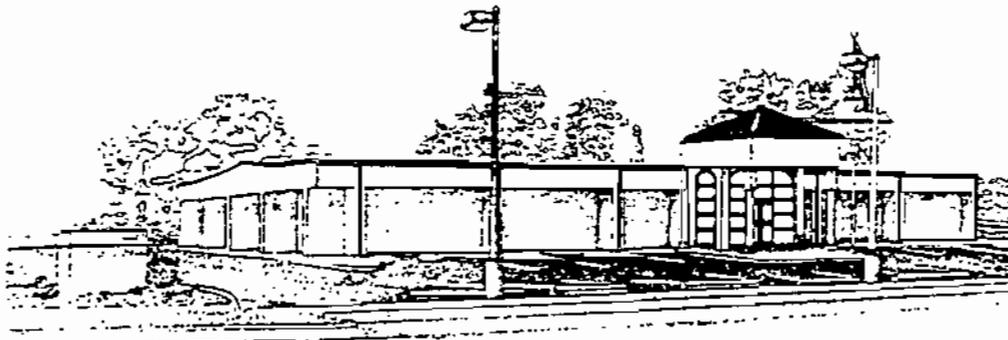
The benefit of Carle and Hoopeton Regional Health Center leading such educational and professional development activities is consistent with the mission in our schools. Additional opportunities would mean a better educated community. It could also mean improved career options in the future.

The initial impact of integration between Hoopeton Regional Health Center and Carle will include advances in available care with more doctors, more services and enhanced quality of care here in Hoopeton. In the future, there would be more support for those who need it in addition to better job opportunities. Carle's continued involvement with Hoopeton Regional Health Center will bring about positive change for the entire community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry Maynard".

Larry Maynard, Principal
Hoopeton Area High School



Hoopeston Municipal Building

City of Hoopeston

301 W. Main St.
Hoopeston, IL 60942
(217) 283-5320
Fax: (217) 283-7965

April 26, 2012

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

RE: E-002-12, Integration of Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

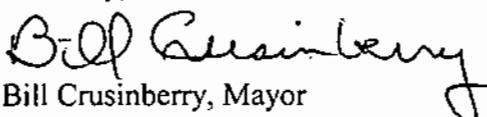
Please allow this letter to serve as my support for the proposed partnership between Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital and Carle Foundation Hospital. As mayor I have a unique understanding of the challenges Hoopeston residents face and view this as a very positive change that will support everyone who lives here. People in Hoopeston deserve to have the assurance that the community's hospital will be here in the years to come when they need healthcare. With the integration of Hoopeston Memorial and Carle we will continue to have the facility we need.

This rural and economically challenged area relies upon the Hoopeston Community Hospital and the services already provided through their longstanding affiliation with Carle. Carle's continued support of our community along with the outstanding care provided shows just how beneficial the integration will be. It will improve the resources and capacity of the hospital to provide safe and effective vital health care services.

By ensuring the long term viability of the Hoopeston Hospital, the community will enjoy the economic benefits the hospital provides to Hoopeston as a major employer and partner.

I understand the critical need for healthcare in our community and I fully support this effort to join with Carle in order to improve access to care for the health and safety of residents in the City of Hoopeston.

Sincerely,


Bill Crusinberry, Mayor
City of Hoopeston

Charlotte Ann Russell Medical Center

801 East Orange Street
Hoopeston, IL 60942-1802

4/27/2012

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

Re: E-002-12, Integration of Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

To the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board:

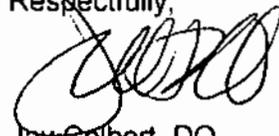
As a practicing physician in Hoopeston and chief of staff at Hoopeston Regional Health Center, I am writing in full support of The Carle Foundation's acquisition of the Hoopeston Hospital and its medical practices. The merger will allow major improvements in care and services available to our patients in Hoopeston, Vermilion County and the surrounding area.

Carle and Hoopeston Regional Health Center have been formally affiliated since 2009. This partnership has allowed Hoopeston to provide more services, particularly for specialty care in cardiology, obstetrics and gynecology, orthopedic surgery and psychiatry. Through our stroke transfer agreement, we have implemented Carle's best practice protocols to triage patients suffering stroke and begin treatment even before transit to Carle Foundation Hospital when intervention is needed. Laboratory and radiology diagnostic services have been enhanced, and staff is utilizing Carle's well-developed pharmacy and quality programs. These improvements would not have been possible at this rural Critical Access Hospital without the Carle partnership.

Upon integration, the intent of the medical staff will be to expand service even more, which means people living in this rural area will have access to the same high standards of care that a larger city offers. A small rural hospital does not have the ability to recruit physicians trained in subspecialties, which is why integration with Carle is critical to bringing additional providers to the area. For patients, this will mean seeing the provider they need close to where they live.

As a physician dedicated to working in this medically underserved area, I am firmly committed to seeing the integration with Carle take place. People who live in the region need a strong, viable hospital here, and joining with Carle will make that happen.

Respectfully,



Jay Colbert, DO

Family Practice and Podiatry, Charlotte Anne Russell Medical Center
Chief of Staff, Hoopeston Regional Health Center