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Brackbill, Robert

From: Donatelli, Jean [Donatellj@FSWP.org]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2012 9:56 AM
To: Brackbill, Robert
Cc: kkmckenz@wpahs.org
Subject: West Penn Hospital Letter of Support
Attachments: West Penn Hospital Ltr of Support 030212.pdf

<<West Penn Hospital Ltr of Support 030212.pdf>>

Jean B. Donatelli

Executive Assistant
412-820-2050, Ext. 442

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March 2, 2012

Mr. Robert Brackbill
Chief, Company Licensing Division
Pennsylvania Insurance Department
1345 Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Mr. Brackbill:

RE: Proposed Affiliation of Highmark Inc. and West Penn Allegheny Health System

As a member organization of the Western Pennsylvania Community Partnership supporting West Penn Hospital, we respectfully request that you consider this letter of support in favor of the above mentioned filing under review by your office.

The Western Pennsylvania Hospital Community Partnership is a non-profit organization that was established in September 1991 to provide a forum for community and Hospital leadership to work together to understand and address health-related issues. Since its inception, the Community Partnership has addressed issues involving the health of residents of the City of Pittsburgh's East End neighborhoods. The Partnership's mission is to foster healthy communities, defined as those "in which all community members are empowered to affect the wellness, safety and living conditions of themselves, their families and their neighbors."

Our partnership includes various constituencies which support, service, work and use West Penn Hospital. The people of WPAHS —physicians, nurses, technicians and support staff -- provide excellent quality care 24/7 for our friends, families and colleagues. As WPAHS has struggled to survive, so have the Partnership member communities that rely upon the hospital's vitality.

Highmark has demonstrated its commitment to Bloomfield and the surrounding neighborhoods, which my agency also serves, through the restoration of many clinical services to West Penn, including the Emergency Department. In turn, our confidence has been restored that when we need emergency care, the caring physicians, nurses and staff will be available in a state-of-the-art facility.

West Penn Hospital is central to the east end communities, and we support this affiliation. We believe that your review will conclude that expeditious approval of the proposed affiliation is the correct action for patients and providers in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Donald H. Goughler", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Donald H. Goughler
President and Chief Executive Officer



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