

May 25, 2011

The Honorable Randall Worthington  
The Maryland Health Care Commission  
4160 Patterson Avenue  
Baltimore MD 21215

**RE: Washington Adventist Hospital Application for Relocation**

Dear Commissioner Worthington:

On behalf of over 3,000 residents and staff of Riderwood Village, we are urging the Maryland Health Care Commission to support the application of Washington Adventist Hospital (“WAH”) to its proposed location in Silver Spring. Riderwood Village, Maryland’s largest continuing care retirement community and a member of the Erickson Living Network, is a national leader providing innovative health care to older adults. A relocated WAH has the potential to more closely align the resources of the hospital, the retirement community, as well as the corporate investments of Adventist Health Care and Erickson Living to build a model of excellence for geriatric health care and employee wellness in the region.

The new WAH facility is planned to be in close proximity to Riderwood Village, which will significantly improve the quality of care to our seniors living at Riderwood Village. Riderwood Village is a significant regional hub for health care, with a physicians’ practice, skilled nursing and assisted living facilities, as well as ancillary services. A relocated WAH will improve emergency services, clinical integration between the medical staff of the two institutions, sharing of best practices, and will expand the use of electronic health records, of which Erickson and Adventist Healthcare have been leaders bringing the use of this important technology to Maryland. The opportunity for closer integration between Riderwood and WAH will result in reducing hospital readmissions and will improve chronic disease management, which significantly increases the quality of care and quality of life for seniors.

Adventist Health Care and Erickson Living also share a deep commitment to employee health and wellness. As health care facilities, the organizations employ several thousand service level employees for which access to health and wellness services is often challenging. Riderwood Village has an industry-leading employee health clinic that provides free or low cost services to employees and family members. Adventist Health Care runs similar programs for their employees. The implementation of a larger health and wellness program can assist in controlling Medicaid expenses and improve Maryland’s challenge in managing significant health disparities in certain populations. Partnerships between our two organizations on improving employee health, wellness, and education will benefit thousands of service employees and family members.



We are also in discussions on how to use the synergies created by a WAH relocation to create a geriatric center for excellence to serve older adults in the region. Meeting the significant health needs of older adults is becoming a regional challenge and the needs will significantly increase as the population ages. The Adventist and the Erickson systems are bringing significant experience and resources to meet these needs. The significant investment in electronic medical records, primary care, and care coordination form the basis for an effective Accountable Care Organization and other initiatives that aim to shift resources from acute care to primary care and preventative health services. Health leaders from both systems are working together to incorporate best practices and geriatric-centered design elements into the physical structure and operations of the future hospital. These efforts, as well as other initiatives, address the significant health needs of the community.

The WAH relocation has the potential to create key strategic partnerships that address many of the most significant health care challenges that face our region. We hope that the State of Maryland considers the application as an opportunity to address these important challenges. We are excited about the opportunity to develop major health care initiatives, in collaboration with a new hospital, to meet these challenges.

Sincerely,



Chip Warner

Executive Director  
Riderwood Village



Adam Kane

Senior Vice President Corporate Affairs  
Erickson Living

