

Date: November 9, 2021

To: William Hobert, Chair
Peter Amaro
Drew L. Beres
James J. Fuentes
Mayor Arlene A. Juracek
Roxanne Nava
George Obernagel

Roger Poole
Timothy Ryan
Eduardo Tobon
Jennifer Watson
Randal Wexler
Jeffrey Wright
Bradley A. Zeller

From: Christopher B. Meister, Executive Director

Subject: *Message from the Executive Director*

Dear Member of the Authority:

Federal and State Update

Federal matters continue to move quickly as did matters in the recently concluded General Assembly November 2021 veto session. Additional updates will be forthcoming as appropriate.

Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center

Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center (“Sarah Bush”) returns to the Authority’s agenda this month. With more than 2,200 full-time equivalent employees, Sarah Bush is one of the largest employers in Coles County and provides healthcare to a ten-county region through its hospital with 145 licensed beds. This new money project, with a not-to-exceed amount of \$50,000,000, consists, in part, of constructing, expanding, renovating, and remodeling a critical care unit and a hospice house facility. The project will bring between 35 and 45 new jobs to Illinois. Along with other improvements, the project will be used to create space for fifteen new medical-surgical beds and a new multidisciplinary training center.

The Blessing Foundation, Inc.

This is the Authority’s first opportunity to work with The Blessing Foundation, Inc. (“Blessing Foundation”), an Illinois not-for-profit corporation located in Quincy, Illinois. Blessing Foundation raises, maintains, and disburses charitably donated funds for the benefit of patients and affiliates of the Blessing Health System. The Blessing Health System and its affiliates primarily serve a population of over 150,000 in the Tri-State region of Illinois, Missouri, and Iowa surrounding Illinois’s Gem City (i.e., Quincy, Illinois). The proposed bonds to be issued by the Authority would be used, in part, to finance or refinance all or a portion of the costs incurred by Blessing Foundation in connection with the acquisition, construction,

renovation, improvement, expansion, and/or equipping of two medical office buildings in Quincy, located adjacent to Blessing Hospital.

Southern Illinois Healthcare Enterprises, Inc.

Southern Illinois Healthcare Enterprises, Inc. (“SIHE”), an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, has two resolutions for consideration by the Authority this month. SIHE plans, directs, and administers the operations of a four-hospital health system in far southern Illinois with a primary service area encompassing seven counties: Franklin, Jackson, Johnson, Perry, Saline, Union, and Williamson. The proposed bonds to be issued by the Authority will be used to refund all or a portion of the outstanding principal amount of the Illinois Finance Authority Series 2017 revenue bonds issued for the benefit of Harrisburg Medical Center, Inc., which SIHE acquired in 2021. Additionally, SIHE is requesting the Authority’s consideration and approval of a resolution to amend and restate the bond indentures and loan agreements related to two series of bonds issued by the Authority in 2014 for the benefit of SIHE.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Meister', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Christopher B. Meister
Executive Director