


From: [Bassel](#) 
To: Fernanda.lopes@health.ri.gov; [HealthCare](#)
Subject: Letter from a Spine Surgeon at CharterCare.
Date: Thursday, February 8, 2024 4:00:05 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

[External email: Use caution with links and attachments]

Dear Ms. Lopes and Ms. Harvey,

I'm writing in support of the HCA application and sale of CharterCARE to The Centurion Foundation.

I'm a spine surgeon and have worked at Roger Williams and Fatima hospital for two years, I do a considerable number of my surgery there.

I am fully supportive and hopeful that The Centurion Foundation will return these hospitals to not-for-profit, which is good for my patients, staff, and the community, Centurion maintain local leadership and control thru a local board, they will invest in our programs and facilities and will return jobs that have been outsourced regionally or to the corporate office.

I love my job as a spine surgeon and truly believe that RW and OLF are instrumental hospitals for our community. Despite the lack of resources, we are able to deliver the highest quality care through those hospitals and they remain committed to good outcomes and safety.

I also serve the people of Johnston, Cranston and Cumberland. I see patients in multiple office locations that are all attached and affiliated with those hospitals. We have been quiet busy caring for patients with spine conditions and I assure you they have been getting world class care at least from spine perspective.

Roger Williams is certainly a small hospital, but it has a great location and easy to access. It also welcomes patients and people of the community with an open heart. CharterCARE hospitals are truly essential to the local healthcare market and economy.

I am extremely proud of my work and association with these hospitals, and I am looking forward to new owners and an exciting future.

Thank you both for your support, and I hope you take my appeal into consideration.

Respectfully,



Bassel [REDACTED], MD

Spine and Scoliosis Surgeon
Assistant Professor of Orthopaedics
Director of Spine Research and Innovation
Director of Spine Research Fellowship

University Orthopedics | Warren Alpert School of Medicine, Brown
University

From: [REDACTED] [Rebecca](#)
To: Fernanda.lopes@health.ri.gov; [HealthCare](#)
Subject: CharterCare and Centurion Foundation
Date: Friday, February 9, 2024 9:37:43 AM

[External email: Use caution with links and attachments]

Dear Mr. Lopes and Ms. Harvey,

I'm writing in strong support of the HCA application and sale of CharterCARE to The Centurion Foundation.

I am the Division Director of Geriatrics and Palliative Care, the Executive Physician/VP of Clinical Integration, past President of the Medical Staff and a longstanding geriatrician at Roger William Medical Center for over 18 years. I am deeply involved with the educational programs at our hospital and have trained residents who go on to work all over Rhode Island and enrich our medical community enormously as primary care doctors, hospitalists and subspecialists. As a Clinical Educator I feel it is deeply important that Roger Williams return to nonprofit status - the way it was when I chose to start my career here back in [REDACTED]. We as geriatricians feel so fortunate to have the opportunity to involve The Centurion Foundation so that they can assist us in this effort. It will allow us to continue to provide excellent evidence-based care to our vulnerable elderly population in Rhode Island. This is a population that has been devastated during the pandemic and we have been on the front lines caring for them in the inpatient and outpatient settings while educating future generations of physicians about the unique needs of this population.

The Centurion Foundation has made it clear to elected hospital leadership that they will maintain local leadership and control through our local board and that they will invest in our teaching programs, our facilities and our workers. They clearly are dedicated to expanding local leadership and direction - something that has been prohibitively difficult under current ownership where jobs have been outsourced regionally or to a corporate office far from our state leading to inconsistent communication with and support of medical staff.

I love Roger Williams Medical Center and am deeply dedicated to all the staff who work here. My patients and their families - many of whom are also relatives of staff members - are all extremely concerned about the future of our precious hospital. We have a unique model of geriatrics care that our hospital has miraculously protected through my time here. We provide full continuity of care from home visits to office care to long term care facilities and we, unlike most geriatricians in this country, actually follow our own patients when they are admitted to the hospital. When my patients see my face in the hospital, where they are most vulnerable, they are deeply relieved because they know that I already understand what they want and need from all of our careful work in the outpatient setting where we have extended visit times to really get to know our patients. They and their families love this continuity of care, and it must be protected and cherished. They also love the smaller size of the hospital.

When they accidentally get transported to another hospital by rescue, they call my office because they are desperate for guidance that is prohibitively more difficult when I cannot be where they are. The loss of our geriatrics program in Rhode Island would be devastating to these families and their loved ones.

One final anecdote. When I fractured my ankle in Boston, the ambulance driver thought I was crazy when I refused transport to Brigham and Women's Hospital because I insisted on going to Roger Williams Medical Center in Providence, Rhode Island where I knew everyone. I had an excellent surgical experience as a patient here and I recommend this hospital highly to everyone. It is a very special place. We have had our ups and downs since I came here but most of us have remained in the trenches since when I arrived almost 19 years ago - this is not typical of most work places these days in healthcare. I am proud to work here. Please make it possible for our work in geriatrics and our training of future physicians who frequently remain in our state to continue because Rhode Island is a wonderful place to live and work.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rebecca [REDACTED]n, MD

Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine in Geriatrics - Boston University School of Medicine

Clinical Assistant Professor Medicine - Warren Alpert School of Medicine, Brown University

From: [REDACTED] [Thaer](#)
To: [HealthCare](#)
Subject: Roger Williams Medical Center
Date: Friday, February 9, 2024 8:36:34 PM

[External email: Use caution with links and attachments]

Dear Mrs. Harvey,

My name is Thaer [REDACTED], I am a gastroenterologist with advanced endoscopic training and do special procedures that are not widely available in all hospitals, for example I have had patients referred to me from Providence VA, Landmark Hospital, St. Ann in Fall river even.

I'm writing in support of the HCA application and sale of CharterCARE to The Centurion Foundation, as our work flow has been compromised and affected significantly. In return our population has suffered, we are doing our best but we need your help and we need this transition to happen as soon as possible.

It is extremely important also to return to nonprofit status as this will enable us to serve more patients and the community, I believe in our leadership here and the mission of this place.

We need your help to get this through and move forward as soon as possible.

We are all working hard, we take excellent care of our patients and patients love our hospitals. Roger Williams Medical Center is a Cancer center with a lot of history, we have training programs and have been graduating residents and fellows for years, this is also important to keep training doctors who a lot of will stay in RI.

My endoscopy suite is busy, clinic is busy and inpatient consults and procedures are nonstop. We cannot afford to slow down and our patients cannot either. I am proud to be physician here at Roger Williams Medical Center, I have a wonderful team that are waiting eagerly for this sale to go through. We have a lot of ideas and potential for growth for our patients, with limited resources we are just getting by.

Best,
Thaer [REDACTED] MD MPH
Gastroenterologist.
Roger Williams Medical Center

From: [REDACTED] r Pohl
To: [HealthCare](#)
Subject: Prospect sale
Date: Sunday, February 11, 2024 4:38:07 PM

[External email: Use caution with links and attachments]

Dear Ms Harvey,

I am writing in support of the HCA application and sale of CharterCARE to The Centurion Foundation.

As a surgeon associated with RWMC and Fatima for [REDACTED] years, I have witnessed over the years the excellent care delivered by dedicated and excellent physicians, nurses and support staff at all levels. All this at the most economical cost of all hospitals in Rhode Island. We never needed bailouts by the state government when we were not-for-profit. Reverting back to that status with the backing of Centurion will give us the necessary support from a successful national entity and at the same time leave us with the autonomy to keep the current level of service.

We deliver care to a large amount of inner city and elderly people and the loss of the hospital would hurt the community tremendously.

I am proud of our work and my association with these hospitals and I am looking forward to new owners and an exciting future. The Roger Williams family has always pulled through.

Thank you for supporting this application. If you need more information, my cell is [REDACTED]

Dieter [REDACTED], MD FACS

February 12, 2024



Ms. Fernanda Lopes, MPH, Chief
Office of Health Systems Development
RI Department of Health
Three Capitol Hill, Room 410
Providence, RI 02908

Dear Ms. Lopes,

I am writing to express my full support for CharterCare's initiative to transition from a for-profit to a nonprofit organization. As an Alzheimer's Adult Day provider, I have witnessed firsthand the invaluable services and care provided by CharterCare to our community.

The decision to pursue a nonprofit status is commendable and aligns with the core mission of healthcare – to serve the well-being of individuals and communities rather than focusing solely on profit margins. By making this transition, CharterCare reaffirms its commitment to prioritizing patient care.

I am confident that under your leadership and with the support of dedicated healthcare professionals, CharterCare will continue to thrive as a beacon of hope and healing in our community.

I wholeheartedly endorse CharterCare's decision to pursue a nonprofit status and offer my support throughout this transition process. Thank you for your dedication to serving our community and for your tireless efforts to advance the mission of CharterCare.

Sincerely,

Ellen M. Grizzetti
President and CEO

cc: Julia Harvey, Health Care Advocate
Health Care Unit
RI Office of the Attorney General
150 South Main Street
Providence RI 02903

Brighter Hours • Fuller Days • Richer Lives

From: [REDACTED] Ponnandai
To: [HealthCare](#)
Subject: support HCA application Chartercare
Date: Thursday, February 8, 2024 4:40:00 PM

[External email: Use caution with links and attachments]

Dear Julia Harvey,

I'm writing in support of [REDACTED] rCARE to The Centurion Foundation. I am the [REDACTED] and I have been working with RWMC for the past [REDACTED] years exclusively at Roger Williams. We serve the community especially in the cancer arena, geriatrics and other specialties very well. It is important for the hospital to come to the non profit status as it significantly improves the care of the patients. It will also improve the research capacity of the hospital as it will make it amenable to get grants to support research. Centurion Foundation is a strong organization which is supporting us to bring us to non profit status and hence support the application. It will help the patients, staff and physicians. It will bring all the jobs locally and they will work through local boards. I love working with Roger Williams Medical Center a part of Chartercare. There is great pride in taking care of the patients and giving them excellent care. It is a hospital which is easily accessible and parking is easy for the patients and staff. The outcomes of the patient care is excellent and it has received several accolades in this regard. I really thank you for supporting the application and I am writing in strongest support of the application as a proud member of Chartercare facility.

Ponnandai [REDACTED] MD, MPH, FACS
Vice Chairman of Surgery
Chief, Division of Surgical Oncology,
Associate Professor of Surgery, Department of Surgery
Roger Williams Medical Center, Boston University.

From: [REDACTED] Abdul S [REDACTED]
To: Fernanda.lopes@health.ri.gov; [HealthCare](#)
Subject: RE; HCA application and sale of CharterCARE to The Centurion Foundation
Date: Thursday, February 8, 2024 9:51:32 PM

[External email: Use caution with links and attachments]

Dear Fernanda Lopes and Julia Harvey,

I want to introduce myself. I am Abdul [REDACTED], a surgical oncologist at CharterCARE (Roger Williams Medical Center and Our Lady of Fatima Hospital). I have worked at CharterCARE for [REDACTED] as a cancer surgeon specializing in complex gastrointestinal, pancreatic, and liver cancers. I am writing to support the HCA application and sale of CharterCARE to The Centurion Foundation.

Besides providing surgical oncology care to hundreds of patients in our community, through CharterCARE, I have had the support to start a community outreach and patient navigation program to educate our Hispanic community about colorectal cancer prevention and help them overcome barriers to screening colonoscopy. This program has assisted over 1000 Hispanic patients in our community to get screened for colorectal cancer. Many of them have benefited from this "lifesaving" procedure by detecting cancer in its early stages, improving outcomes and the possibility of a cure. The program has had such a profound impact that it has been recognized by multiple awards at the local level (Directors Awards from the RIDOH, Champions Awards from the Latino Cancer Task Force, Dr. John Cunningham Award by RIHCA, Dr. Joseph DiMasse Award by the Partnership to Reduce Cancer of RI) and at the National level by the American Cancer Society with the Adams Lane Award and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with the Carol Friedman Award. The program is open and continues to help many Hispanics thanks to CharterCARE's support and interest in cancer care prevention for underserved populations in our state.

When we first started this program, CharterCARE was a Not-for-profit institution. I am sure that returning to this status under the Centurion Foundation will allow us to continue and expand the program services to other underserved communities in RI. We have met with the Centurion Foundation leadership, and it has been clear that they will maintain local leadership and control through a local board. Undoubtedly, they will invest in our programs and make structural changes to provide even higher-quality services.

As a young Hispanic professional, I have found in RI and CharterCARE a professional environment that cherishes diversity and supports programs that could help decrease healthcare disparities and improve health equity. For this reason, I have decided to stay at CharterCARE for over ten years and made RI my home. I want to keep collaborating with the DOH and many not-for-profit organizations to decrease the cancer burden in RI, and I would not be able to do it without CharterCARE's support.

I do not think it is necessary to mention how critical the cancer care we provide at RWMC and OLF is. However, imagine how many patients will not benefit from our patient navigation program or will not get their colonoscopy on time because our system cannot provide services anymore. How long will cancer patients have to wait to be diagnosed or to access specialized cancer care? Currently, I see any new patient with a cancer diagnosis within 48 hours of referral because I know how difficult and stressful it is to hear the cancer diagnosis. Without CharterCARE hospitals, the quality of care and time to care will be unacceptable, putting Rhode Islanders at risk of worse outcomes. The health care services we provide are essential for our community, and I can only imagine what would be of the pancreatic cancer patient I operated on last week within two weeks of the diagnosis if she had to wait two months to see a specialist because the RI health system is overwhelmed.

I have to say I feel proud of all we have accomplished in the cancer care field; we could not have done it without CharterCARE's support. However, there is more work to be done, and by supporting and expediting the sale of CharterCARE to the Centurion Foundation, you will guarantee that we will keep providing and expanding our high-quality cancer care services.

Thank you again for supporting the application.

ASC

Abdul [REDACTED] MD MPH FACS
Assistant Professor of Surgery
Program Director, Complex General Surgical Oncology Fellowship
Roger Williams Medical Center / BU School of Medicine
Chief of General Surgery / Our Lady of Fatima Hospital

[REDACTED]



BRIARCLIFFE

February 12, 2024

Fernand Lopes, MPH, Chief
Office of Health System Development
RI Department of Health
Three Capitol Hill, Room 410
Providence, RI 02908

Dear Ms. Lopes:

I am writing this letter of support for the current proposal from the Centurion Foundation to return the CharterCare hospitals to not-for-profit status.

My understanding of the proposal is that this will maintain local leadership and control of the hospitals through a local Board. Further, it promises investment in the hospital programs and facilities in what hopefully will be the best outcome for the future of the hospitals as well as for the Rhode Island healthcare system.

Thank you,
Sincerely,

Akshay K. Talwar
President

cc: Julia Harvey, Healthcare Advocate
RI Office of the Attorney General

From: [Deborah \[REDACTED\]](#)
To: fernanda.lopes@health.ri.gov; [HealthCare](#)
Subject: HCA application and sale of CharterCARE to The Centurion Foundation
Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 11:06:25 AM

[External email: Use caution with links and attachments]

**Deborah [REDACTED] – Realtor/Mentor
HomeSmart Professionals Real Estate
100 Quaker Lane**



February 13, 2024

Fernanda Lopes, MPH, Chief
Office of Health Systems Development
RI Department of Health
Three Capitol Hill, Room 410
Providence, RI 02908
Fernanda.lopes@health.ri.gov

Julia Harvey, Health Care Advocate
Health Care Unit
RI Office of the Attorney General
150 South main Street
Providence RI 02903
healthcare@riag.ri.gov

Dear Ms. Lopes & Ms. Harvey:

My name is Deborah Giannini and I'm writing *in support of the HCA application and sale of CharterCARE to The Centurion Foundation.*

My personal interest in the hospital, having been a patient for many months in [REDACTED] at the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is that I am a member of the Board of Directors since [REDACTED] 4 as a community advocate and I am hopeful that CharterCare will be returned to non-profit status. The Centurion Foundation is a perfect fit as it will return these hospitals to not-for-profit, which is good for patients, staff, and the community. Centurion Foundation will maintain local leadership and control through a local board, invest in our programs and facilities and will return jobs that have been outsourced regionally or to the corporate office.

My responsibility and participation on the Board has been great for the community and patients alike as I bring my own experiences as a patient, allowing me to be their voice. This relationship has a strong impact on the patient's experience, quality of care, constantly supporting the hospital's commitment to care and safety and I look forward to many more years of this effort. As you know, CharterCare hospitals are essential to the local healthcare market and economy and having their presence in Rhode Island will continue to allow progress. We are a perfect option for the State of Rhode Island in that we are easy to access and provide patients and employees with a great feeling of being connected to our great community.

My affiliation as a community advocate on the Board is something that I am proud of and I enjoy my association with these hospitals and very much looking forward to new owners and an exciting future and on behalf of the community, *I look forward to your support of this application.*

Thanks for your anticipated support,

Sincerely,

Deborah [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Deborah Giannini, Real Estate Professional & Mentor

[REDACTED]

Healthcare *Strategies* LLC

February 14, 2024

Julia Harvey, Health Care Advocate, Health Care Unit
RI Office of the Attorney General
150 South Main Street,
Providence, RI 02903,

Dear Julia

I am submitting this letter to RIDOH administration and the Health Services Council in support of Charter Care's request for a change in effective control back to non-profit status.

As a local healthcare businessman, I have started and functioned as CEO for multiple healthcare businesses based in Rhode Island and have been a consultant to healthcare companies throughout the country. During the past forty years, I have worked closely with the medical staff, administration and patients of both Roger Williams Medical Center and Our Lady of Fatima Hospital, and can attest to the high quality care rendered by their affiliated physicians and hospital staffs. Despite the recent financial struggles of both facilities, their dedicated staff provided the best care possible for their patients.

I believe CharterCare will more effectively - as a nonprofit- fulfill its mission of preserving, restoring and enhancing the health of the people in the communities that they serve. Many of their patients are insured by Medicare and Medicaid or are uninsured, which clearly presented financial challenges for the current "for-profit" owner and is unsustainable.

With a return to non-profit status, they will be relieved of shareholder expectations and a tax burden. As a result, the current Charter Care management team, physician providers and hospital staffs will be able to provide high quality care in a cost effective manner.

Please support the approval of Charter Care's application to return to non-profit status.

Respectfully submitted,



Bernard F Lambrese
Managing Partner



From: [Dan \[REDACTED\]](#)
To: [HealthCare](#)
Subject: Approval of the sale of Charter Care to Centurion
Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 1:44:55 PM

[External email: Use caution with links and attachments]

Julia Harvey

Health Care Advocate

Health Care Unit

RI Office of the Attorney General

Providence, RI 02903

Dear Ms. Harvey,

I am writing in support of the application of Centurion's proposal to purchase CharterCare.

While there are numerous reasons, here are those I would like to highlight:

1. Change to not for profit status would benefit all of Rhode Island. The revenues collected would stay here in Rhode Island funding jobs, facilities, programs, equipment purchases and keep funds here serving Rhode Islanders.
2. We would be able to maintain local control and management. You may know the current management for the most part has been part of the RI scene for many years. (vs. control from California)
3. I have been employed about three years and interact regularly with the medical providers here in RI. The overwhelming support for a change to not for profit cannot be understated. Providers have been loyal to the quality medical care, and often comment on us providing services often not easily available from the other hospitals. Not to mention the geographic availability for certain parts of the state. They have been truly a local community health asset.
4. I have personally experienced the quality of medical services for immediate and extended family members.

I thank you for consideration of approval of the sale, for the improvement of health care in Rhode Island.

Best regards,

Daniel



From: [REDACTED] Joseph
To: [HealthCare](#)
Subject: Letter of Support
Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 4:31:22 PM

[External email: Use caution with links and attachments]

Julia Harvey, Health Care Advocate
Health Care Unit
RI Office of Attorney General
150 South Main Street
Providence RI 02903

Dear Ms. Harvey:

Thank you for the opportunity to write this letter in support of the HCA application and sale of CharterCARE to the Centurion Foundation.

I joined the Medical Staff of Our Lady of Fatima Hospital [REDACTED] and was appointed Chief of the Division of Dentistry and Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery in [REDACTED]. I continued to serve in that capacity until my retirement in [REDACTED]

A "dental department" has long been a part of St. Joseph Health Services. The opening of the pediatric dental clinic in 1995 at St. Joseph's Hospital on Peace Street as the premier provider of pediatric dental services in the New England region and the subsequent establishment of the pediatric dental residency program in 2003 highlight the Hospital's commitment to the Rhode Island community.

However, as legendary as those accomplishments are, I would like to reference a more personal and poignant experience.

It was during the second semester of my freshman year at Providence College in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] when I, along with others, frequently visited our very close friend at Our Lady of Fatima Hospital who was there for treatment of a very serious affliction.

The emotional support, compassion and joy extended to this young lady, her family and to us, her friends, by the nursing staff, the clergy, the support staff, even the laboratory technicians of this very local community hospital, at each and every visit and at the end of her life, left me with an indelible memory that remains with me even today.

It is my hope and expectation that through Centurion Foundation's charitable mission, a return to a non-profit status, a renewed interest in the Catholicity of the Hospital and control of the

Hospital through local leadership and a local board, patients and families will have the opportunity to experience those same feelings that I did some sixty years ago.

I enthusiastically support the purchase of CharterCARE by the Centurion Foundation.

Respectfully,

Joseph [REDACTED], Jr., DDS, FACD, FICD

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED], Christine
To: [HealthCare](#)
Subject: CharterCARE/The Centurion Foundation
Date: Thursday, February 15, 2024 11:15:11 AM

[External email: Use caution with links and attachments]

Julia,

I am writing in support of the HCA application and the sale of CharterCARE to The Centurion Foundation.

I am an RN and a Clinical Manager for the outpatient physician practices, CharterCARE Medical Associates, that are part of the Prospect CharterCARE Group.

My understanding is that the Centurion Foundation will return our system to non-profit. This will benefit the system as a whole, but specifically our practices and patients. We will be able to apply for grants to help our patients with medications, immunizations, etc.

Our practices utilize our hospital services on a daily basis. Especially Fatima Hospital, which is a small community hospital. Patients from the northern part of RI feel very comfortable going to this hospital as an extension of their community providers.

We are holding on trying to get to the sale, and we have been encouraging our providers and staff to do the same. The sale of our system to The Centurion Foundation will make a big difference for our practices as money will flow into the system and help us to continue to grow, improve and better serve our patients.

Thank you for supporting this application,

Christine

Christine [REDACTED], BSN, RN
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED], Joseph
To: Fernanda.lopes@health.ri.gov; HealthCare
Cc: Espat, Joseph
Subject: HCA application and sale of CharterCARE to The Centurion Foundation
Date: Thursday, February 15, 2024 4:27:56 PM

[External email: Use caution with links and attachments]

Fernanda Lopes, MPH, Chief

Office of Health Systems Development

RI Department of Health

Three Capitol Hill, Room 410

Providence, RI 02908

Fernanda.lopes@health.ri.gov

Julia Harvey, Health Care Advocate

Health Care Unit

RI Office of the Attorney General

150 South main Street

Providence RI 02903

healthcare@riag.ri.gov

To whom it may concern:

I'm writing in support of the HCA application and sale of CharterCARE to The Centurion Foundation. Having worked at Roger Williams Medical Center for the last [REDACTED] in various capacities as a clinical surgeon, as a clinical leader and an active member in the healthcare community in the state of Rhode Island, I have firsthand knowledge of what a valuable resource both Roger Williams Medical Center and our Lady of Fatima hospitals are to the population of Rhode Island.

I practice as a surgeon, specifically a surgical oncologist specializing in diseases of the liver and pancreas. I am proud to be the chair of the department and the director of the cancer center. Our system provides care to tens of thousands of patients with cancer in the state of Rhode Island on an annual basis. I am also proud that we are 1 of only 2 institutions in the state that has a tertiary care certificate to provide liver and pancreas surgery. As you likely know, both of these types of malignancies are fairly common in our state.

While I have an understanding of why it was necessary for the survival of our institution and the institutions in the system to be sold to a for profit company in 2014, I believe it is in the absolute best interest of the state of Rhode Island and the people we care for, for this institution to return to a not-for-profit status. As we are all well aware, a not-for-profit institution has significant advantages for the community and also importantly is the local leadership and control thru a local board. The Centurion foundation not only will invest in our programs and facilities, but they will they will return jobs that have been outsourced regionally or to the corporate office under our current for profit status.

I joined Roger Williams Medical Center [REDACTED] after leaving a major university center and a large metropolitan area. Immediately I learned the value of a patient focused, community focused healthcare organization. I was amazed at the impact that I could make not only in the city of Providence but in the state as a whole. When it became apparent that it was going to be easier for me to go outside of Providence to reach patients in South County or North Providence or Bristol, the hospital supported our satellite clinics which enabled access for patients with complex abdominal malignancies that would have otherwise not come to the "city". There has been continuous investment in operative technology, patient navigators, hiring of additional specialist oncology physicians; so the commitment to the community has never wavered. Unfortunately, the conversion of our institution and system to for profit status limited the resources that were available to continue on this mission, as that status limited access by physicians, researchers, programs to NIH funding, community funding, philanthropy. Moreover in today's economic climate the average medical school graduate carries several \$100,000 worth of educational debt, and having a for profit status precludes those individuals from loan repayment programs which very seriously limits the pool of physicians that we can attract to our institutions. Approval of this sale would remove many of these barriers to our continued commitment toward serving the community and the patients of Rhode Island.

While we are a smaller hospital than the others in Providence, we provide a very patient centered approach. I can specifically speak to the oncology domain, where patients can be seen by medical, surgical and radiation specialists in the same building in the same visit. Our patients are often appreciative of the efficiency by which we provide multidisciplinary care and are grateful that they do not have to navigate Highway 95 in and out of Boston to get equivalent or better care in a personalized manner.

A few words about the people that work at these institutions. There are literally generations of families that have worked and continue to work at our 2 hospitals. Whether they be nurses, environmental services or even surgeons it is not uncommon for there to be employees whom are second and third generation that are work here. These institutions have been a part of the state of Rhode Island for over 100 years. I therefore strongly support the acceptance of the application and the sale of charter care to centurion foundation.

I thank you in advance for supporting my position in this matter, but also the over 2500 employees of both institutions whom have a long prior history of providing outstanding healthcare.

Respectfully Submitted,

N. Joseph [REDACTED] MD MS FACS

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] Krys
To: fernanda.lopes@health.ri.gov; HealthCare
Subject: Sale of Prospect CharterCARE to Centurion
Date: Thursday, February 15, 2024 10:37:59 AM

[External email: Use caution with links and attachments]

Dear Ms. Lopes and Ms. Harvey,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the proposed sale of Prospect CharterCARE Health Partners (CCHP). As a concerned member of the community and an employee, I believe that this decision has the potential to benefit our community in various ways, ultimately improving the healthcare services available to RI residents.

Firstly, the sale of CCHP could result in increased financial stability and improved efficiency. With the support of Centurion, a reputable buyer, who will return the system to nonprofit status, the hospital may gain access to additional resources and expertise, allowing for the enhancement of existing medical services and the introduction of new, innovative treatments.

Local leadership will be returned to the organization with control remaining with a local board, which will consist of RI residents, who have our communities' best interest at heart. Additionally, the financial infusion can contribute to the overall improvement of healthcare delivery and infrastructure, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the hospital.

Moreover, a well-planned sale can lead to the retention and expansion of vital healthcare services within our community. By attracting an entity committed to healthcare excellence, we can ensure that the hospital continues to serve as a cornerstone for the well-being of RI residents and others. This may include the retention of skilled medical professionals and the improvement of patient care facilities and services.

As I am sure you are aware, the state's Emergency Departments are often filled to beyond capacity. Removing two fully functioning Emergency Departments would increase already lengthy wait times and could potentially lead to poor patient outcomes. Roger Williams Medical Center has a research department that contributes to growing knowledge for potentially life saving treatments for patients both locally and across the country. Our facilities also offer behavioral health services, for which there is an ever growing need.

Being two of the smaller hospitals in the state, there is a sense of community and family among patients and staff at our facilities. Patients routinely compliment our

caring and competent staff.

Additionally, the sale may foster increased collaboration with other healthcare institutions and organizations, fostering a more comprehensive and integrated state-wide healthcare system. This collaboration can lead to the sharing of best practices, improved coordination of care, and a more efficient use of resources. Such partnerships can contribute to the overall advancement of healthcare standards within our community and the state.

I understand that the decision to sell a hospital is complex, involving various stakeholders and considerations. However, I firmly believe that a well-managed sale, guided by the principles of transparency and community engagement, can result in positive outcomes for RI residents. I trust that the Department of Health and the RI Office of the Attorney General will carefully evaluate the proposed sale, ensuring that the interests of the community are prioritized throughout the process.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that the sale of CCHP can have on the health and well-being of our communities.

Sincerely,

Cherry F. [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED], Nabil
To: [HealthCare](#)
Subject: Support letter for Centurion application
Date: Thursday, February 15, 2024 2:16:59 PM

[External email: Use caution with links and attachments]

Dear Mrs Harvey,

I am writing to you in support of the Centurion foundation acquiring Chartercare hospitals in Rhode Island.

I am currently the chief of division of gastroenterology at Roger Williams medical Center(RWMC).

I was trained as a resident at Roger Williams medical center and graduated [REDACTED]. I started my practice in Gastroenterology in [REDACTED]. Since then I have helped train many residents over the [REDACTED] years who have gone to serve others in their capacity as physicians throughout the United States.

I have been one of those who benefited from a great education at RWMC. That in turn, in my mind, helped many Rhode Islanders access excellent care in return. There many more physicians like me who have done the same.

I feel that the Centurion foundation , being a nonprofit organization will help tremendously in keeping this excellent training institution in our state for the benefit of all Rhode Islanders.

Beyond the training and education, I feel that the Centurion foundation is also committed to continuing the delivery of outstanding care to our communities we serve. The benefits of such will further extend into preserving essential healthcare jobs that are much needed in the state.

I do hope you will support the application that is currently under your department's review.

Respectfully,

Nabil [REDACTED] MD

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [REDACTED] Teresa
To: [HealthCare](#)
Subject: Application and Sale of CharterCARE to The Centurion Foundation
Date: Thursday, February 15, 2024 10:58:10 AM

[External email: Use caution with links and attachments]

Dear Ms. Harvey,

I am writing in support of the HCA application and sale of CharterCARE Health Partners to The Centurion Foundation.

As the director of CharterCARE Home Health & Hospice, I know firsthand the positive impact the change of ownership would have on the entire organization, including Home Health. Homebound patients desperately need the skilled care that is provided by our agency and without the support of a strong foundation such as Centurion, we may not be able to continue to provide these services.

I believe that if CharterCARE was allowed to return to nonprofit status, we would be become more accessible to the community, provide grants for research that would help the underprivileged and those suffering from illnesses that there are currently no treatment options for and have the ability to reach further out in support of the community as a whole.

In addition, would be that we would be bringing many of our goods and service needs back into the state of Rhode Island. Our health benefits are provided through the state of California and our current contracts are with out-of-state goods and service vendors through Prospect Medical Holdings. Consider the fact that our IT support department is outsourced to India. We need to bring these jobs back home!

I have worked for many different organizations throughout my [REDACTED] as a registered nurse and I can honestly say that there is such a positive climate here at CharterCARE as evidenced by the longevity of our employees. The entire CharterCARE community knows who our CEO and has most likely met him in the hallway at some point in time as Jeff Liebman is a very visible and "hands on" leader, not typical of those in such a highly regarded position.

Without CharterCARE, we would not be able to accommodate the current and rapidly rising needs of the population as we provide care for a large number of our state's patients. Our home health agency receives referrals from physicians and hospitals around the state and we receive daily calls from patients requesting our services for them and their families.

I am truly honored to represent CharterCARE Home Health & Hospice and I take pride in the exceptional care we provide to our homebound patients who would not otherwise have access to healthcare.

CharterCARE Health Partners anxiously awaits the approval and sale of CharterCARE Health Partners to The Centurion Foundation and the exciting future that it will bring to the organization and more importantly, the constituents of Rhode Island.

Thank you for supporting this application.

Best regards,
Teresa [REDACTED]

[Redacted]

Teresa [Redacted] MSN-Ed, RN

[Redacted]



From: [REDACTED]_Jayme
To: fernanda.lopes@health.ri.gov; [HealthCare](#)
Subject: Support of HCA Application
Date: Friday, February 16, 2024 2:08:05 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-nwybavxn.png](#)

[External email: Use caution with links and attachments]

February 16, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Jayme [REDACTED], and I am the Surgical Oncology Nurse Navigator for Roger Williams Medical Center. As a dedicated healthcare professional, I write to express my strong support for the HCA application and sale of CharterCARE to The Centurion Foundation. I believe the sale and vision of a non-profit model offers significant advantages for patients, staff and the community.

Roger Williams has been an essential part of Providence since 1878 and every day I personally witness the profound difference the passionate work of the talented surgeons, doctors, nurses and support staff make on the lives of patients in our small community-based hospital. In 2021, the newly renovated Roger Williams ER opened, and it treats about 25,000 patients each year. This clearly shows the Roger Williams Medical Center plays a crucial role in providing healthcare services to the community.

Looking ahead, I am excited to continue in my role as the Surgical Oncology Nurse Navigator and contribute to the success of Roger Williams Medical Center. I believe the non-profit model will enhance patient care with a focus on prioritizing quality care over financial incentives. In addition, increasing our resources leads to advancements in technology, expanding services, and possibly reducing burdens from patients. One of the most important points of a non-profit hospital is that they are known for their strong commitment to community offering wider access to preventative, educational and outreach programs.

In closing, I am extremely proud to work for Roger Williams Medical Center and the Department of Surgery as the Surgical Oncology Nurse Navigator. I am looking forward to the partnership of our new owners and a long future of outstanding healthcare for Rhode Island.

Thank you for supporting this application.

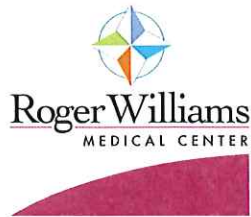
Regards,

Jayme [REDACTED] RN,BSN,OCN®

Jayme [REDACTED] RN,BSN,OCN®
Surgical Oncology Nurse Navigator
Roger Williams Medical Center
825 Chalkstone Avenue
Providence, RI 02908



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February 16, 2024

Fernanda Lopes, MPH, Chief
Office of Health Systems Development
RI Department of Health

Julia Harvey, Health Care Advocate
Health Care Unit
RI Office of the Attorney General

Dear Fernanda and Julia,

I am writing in support of the HCA application to change the effective control of CharterCARE to The Centurion Foundation.

I currently serve as Chairman of the Department of Medicine at Roger Williams Medical Center. I am a lifelong Rhode Islander who grew up in an immigrant family in Pawtucket who owned a small bakery. I went on to the University of Rhode Island College of Pharmacy where I had my first interactions with the health care system in RI, working at Miriam Hospital and in a pharmacy providing services to multiple nursing homes. I then went on to Tuft's University School of Medicine. My parents couldn't understand why I wanted to go all the way up to Boston to go to school, but it did help me see how great the health care system in Rhode Island was back in the late 1980's.

I came back home to RI for a residency at Roger Williams which was a combined and cooperative program between Roger Williams, The Providence VA Medical Center, and Rhode Island Hospital. I absolutely loved the cooperative nature of the program with a focus on educating doctors to provide the best possible care for patients utilizing the talents of each hospital to improve the learning environment. I was especially impressed with Roger Williams Hospital in its unyielding commitment to the care of all patients, but especially the geriatric population, which is what prompted me to remain at the hospital in the geriatrics division.

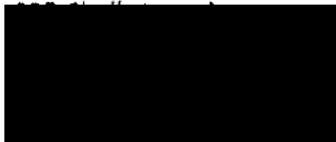
Thankfully, Roger Williams' commitment to caring for our state's elderly population has never faltered over my 35-year tenure at the hospital. What has unfortunately changed is the state's health care communities' goal of working together to improve the health of everyone in Rhode Island. Over the years, our larger hospital systems have become obsessed with trying to monopolize healthcare delivery in the state. This and other factors, forced CharterCARE to seek outside help to continue to provide the care our staff so desperately desired to give. Prospect Medical Holdings came in and initially provided the funding and infrastructure assistance we needed to survive. Our system stabilized and initially flourished, however now the leadership of Prospect is looking to flee our state.

Letter to Fernanda Lopes & Julia Harvey
February 16, 2024
Page 2

With this planned departure we have found new opportunity with The Centurion Foundation, which seeks to return us to not-for-profit status and allow us to continue our original charitable mission of providing easy access to programs and services for patients in the community. They recognize that local leadership can navigate these choppy waters, that a local board will keep watch over mission and margin, and that our providers and staff have been able to treat every patient with the highest level of care and compassion with quality outcomes. All of this in the face of monopolistic actions by area health systems, inadequate reimbursement, owners who have now abandoned us, and even a cyberattack.

I urge the state to act thoughtfully but swiftly to approve the application. Having choice in healthcare is essential for all Rhode Islanders. CharterCARE hospitals offer easy access to essential services, help keep health care costs down, employ thousands of people, and support area charities. At CharterCARE, we want our focus to be on improving the survival of the people we treat as opposed to worrying about the survival of the institution that we love. I believe this application helps us to do that.

John A. [redacted] D ScD
Chairman, Department of Medicine
Roger Williams Medical Center





February 15, 2024

Fernanda Lopes, MPH, Chief
Office of Health Systems Development, RI Department of Health
Three Capitol Hill, Room 410
Providence, RI 02908
Fernanda.lopes@health.ri.gov

Julia Harvey, Health Care Advocate
Health Care Unit, RI Office of the Attorney General
150 South main Street
Providence RI 02903
healthcare@riag.ri.gov

Re: Strong Endorsement and Support for CharterCARE Hospital System's Change in Effective Control Application

Dear Fernanda and Julia,

I am writing to express my strongest possible support for CharterCARE Hospital System's Change in Effective Control application, which is currently in progress. As the Dean of the URI College of Pharmacy, I can attest to the significant and enduring partnership between our institution and CharterCARE.

Our College has a longstanding and fruitful relationship with CharterCARE, highlighted by a substantial number of pharmacy students who undergo their advanced pharmacy practice experiences at this institution. This collaboration has proven invaluable in providing our students with hands-on, real-world training in a healthcare setting, thereby enhancing their clinical skills and preparing them for the challenges of the pharmacy profession.

Recognizing the vital role that CharterCARE plays in the education and professional development of our students, the proposed conversion back to not-for-profit status will fortify this collaboration and further contribute to the excellence of our academic programs. The commitment to maintaining local leadership and control through a local board ensures that the unique healthcare needs of our community remain at the forefront of decision-making.

Furthermore, the Centurion Foundation's pledge to invest in CharterCARE's programs and facilities aligns seamlessly with our commitment to providing our students with the best possible educational experiences. A thriving and well-supported healthcare system enhances the quality of the learning environment and, by extension, the caliber of education our students receive.

The return to not-for-profit status not only promises benefits for CharterCARE but also holds great promise for the URI College of Pharmacy. It opens up new possibilities for collaboration, funding opportunities, and advancements in pharmaceutical education and research. The conversion will allow us to access multiple grant funding sources that were previously unavailable due to the for-profit designation, significantly supporting our academic mission.

The endorsement of our partnership and the shared commitment to excellence in healthcare education and practice from prominent academic and clinical leaders in our state will bolster CharterCARE's case during this critical process. Moreover, their support will encourage the Health Services Council to recognize the urgency of expediting the application review to ensure the continued success of our collaborative efforts.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse CharterCARE Hospital System's Change in Effective Control application and the proposed return to not-for-profit status. This decision will strengthen our partnership, enrich the educational experiences of our students, and contribute to the overall enhancement of healthcare in Rhode Island.

Thank you for your dedication to the well-being of our community and the success of our partnership. Please feel free to reach out if you require any additional information or support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. LaPlante". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter being a large capital 'K'.

Kerry L. LaPlante, PharmD., FCCP, FIDSA, FIDP
Dean, College of Pharmacy

From: [Tricia \[REDACTED\]](#)
To: fernanda.lopes@health.ri.gov; [HealthCare](#)
Subject: HCA application and sale of CharterCARE to The Centurion Foundation
Date: Friday, February 16, 2024 6:08:55 AM

[External email: Use caution with links and attachments]

Good Morning Ms Lopes,

I am writing to express my support for the sale of Charter Care to The Centurion Foundation. My role with Charter Care is twofold. I am the Medical Practice Manager for Charter Care Medical Associates in their [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Our office staff consists of 3 physicians, a nurse practitioner, a nurse care manager, a pharmacist, and the support staff of Medical Assistants, Medical secretaries, and referral coordinators all working toward the same goal of providing safe and available medical care for the community.

My husband is one of the physicians on staff with Charter Care Medical. He and I had worked together in solo practice for [REDACTED]. Since then we have grown in staff and patients. When patients come to our office they are welcomed. This is not only our occupation but our life calling.

The impact of having available health care for all ages in the community is so important for many measurable factors, one being keeping older adults out of skilled nursing facilities and allowing them to age in the home safely using care coordination between the PCP and home care agencies. Charter Care Medical has the physicians and also the home care to do this. We have the hospital system to provide emergency care when patients are in need and allow care coordination back to the Primary Care Physician.

By becoming part of The Centurion nonprofit system we are hopeful of continuing this mission of providing safe and accessible medical care to the community. I appreciate your time and thoughts on this issue as we move forward in support of working with The Centurion Foundation.

Thank You,

Patricia [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Frank [REDACTED], MD
To: HealthCare; Fernanda.lopes@health.ri.gov
Subject: Support for Centurion Purchase and Conversion to Non Profit Status of Our Lady of Fatima and Roger Williams Hospitals
Date: Saturday, February 17, 2024 7:51:59 AM

[External email: Use caution with links and attachments]

To the Attorney General and the Department of Health of Rhode Island:

Julia Harvey, Health Care Advocate

Health Care Unit

RI Office of the Attorney General

150 South main Street

Providence RI 02903

healthcare@riag.ri.gov

Fernanda Lopes, MPH, Chief

Office of Health Systems Development

RI Department of Health

Three Capitol Hill, Room 410

Providence, RI 02908

Fernanda.lopes@health.ri.gov

Dear Ms Harvey and Ms Lopes,

You may recall that two years ago I testified publicly at the first hearing in opposition regarding the proposed illegal merger of Lifespan and Care New England systems. My argument then was as simple as it will be today: that it was and is clearly illegal to allow a monster entity to be created that would easily control all of healthcare in Rhode Island. To deny the conversion back to non-profit status of Our Lady of Fatima and Roger Williams Hospitals would encourage the same negative outcome.

The attorney general in an elegantly reasoned 132 page brief and the Federal Trade Commission agreed as the proposal was clearly illegal on its face. Foolish for Lifespan, CNE and Brown Medical School to have even proposed such a merger spending more than three million dollars in legal fees alone in this exercise in futility. A first year law student would have advised them better.

Now we have two comparatively small competitors to these huge chronically deeply indebted and always money losing healthcare organizations which dwarf Prospect-Charter Care ... and yet the presence of Our Lady of Fatima and Roger Williams Hospitals provide a most viable alternative choice for patients enabling healthy competition along with personalized care.

Rhode Islanders have a choice. They do not have to go to Rhode Island Hospital or Miriam Hospital or Kent emergency rooms when they are ill. This helps keep all healthcare organizations trying their very best lest patients choose to go elsewhere in the future if the experience is poor.

We have been self employed in Johnston as Primary Care Doctors since 1983 and associated with Our Lady of Fatima and Roger Williams Hospitals since then.

Our Patients choose to place their trust in us and the many other doctors not affiliated with Lifespan nor Care New England but rather with Prospect Care - Charter Care's Our Lady of Fatima and Roger Williams hospitals.

We humbly ask that the Attorney General and the Department of Health please approve the proposed conversion to non profit status via sale to Centurion in order to better provide a survival path for our hospitals to continue to offer health care choice to Rhode Island patients not impressed by nor beholden to the monoliths.

It's David vs Goliath here.

"We Try Harder!"

Respectfully submitted,

Frank [REDACTED], JD, MD
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Healthcare
Strategies LLC

96 ~~Rebecca Drive~~ Bristol, RI 02807

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Healthcare *Strategies* LLC

February 14, 2024

Julia Harvey, Health Care Advocate, Health Care Unit
RI Office of the Attorney General
150 South Main Street,
Providence, RI 02903,

Dear Julia

I am submitting this letter to RIDOH administration and the Health Services Council in support of Charter Care's request for a change in effective control back to non-profit status.

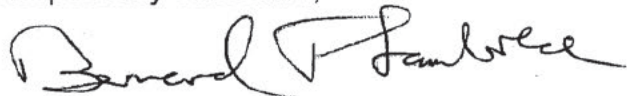
As a local healthcare businessman, I have started and functioned as CEO for multiple healthcare businesses based in Rhode Island and have been a consultant to healthcare companies throughout the country. During the past forty years, I have worked closely with the medical staff, administration and patients of both Roger Williams Medical Center and Our Lady of Fatima Hospital, and can attest to the high quality care rendered by their affiliated physicians and hospital staffs. Despite the recent financial struggles of both facilities, their dedicated staff provided the best care possible for their patients.

I believe CharterCare will more effectively - as a nonprofit- fulfill its mission of preserving, restoring and enhancing the health of the people in the communities that they serve. Many of their patients are insured by Medicare and Medicaid or are uninsured, which clearly presented financial challenges for the current "for-profit" owner and is unsustainable.

With a return to non-profit status, they will be relieved of shareholder expectations and a tax burden. As a result, the current Charter Care management team, physician providers and hospital staffs will be able to provide high quality care in a cost effective manner.

Please support the approval of Charter Care's application to return to non-profit status.

Respectfully submitted,



Bernard F Lambrese



February 18, 2024

Fernanda Lopes, MPH, Chief
Office of Health Systems Development
RI Department of Health
Three Capitol Hill, Room 410
Providence, RI 02908

Dear Ms. Lopes:

I am writing a letter of strong support of the HCA application and pending sale of CharterCare to The Centurion Foundation. I am and have been a practicing physician in the state of [REDACTED]. I trained at [REDACTED] over the years have worked at most of the hospitals in RI. I presently work in the departments of surgery at Roger Williams Medical Center and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

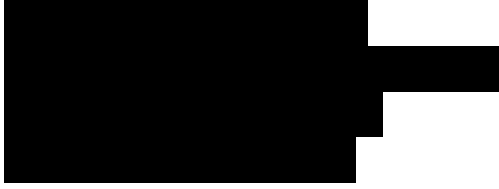
Rhode Island has an economically challenged medical system, especially in juxtaposition to MA and CT. There are presently three healthcare systems that service most of the hospitals and people in the state. The United States health care system is based on competition and price bargaining. If the CharterCare system were to fail, it tremendously strains the state and indigent population. CareCare facilitates giving the employers, insurers, state insurers, and patients negotiated options that would almost disappear with its collapse.

The Centurion Foundation provides an opportunity for new outside capital to be invested in the state. It is also not-for-profit which will ensure local leadership jobs and administration.

The CharterCare system is a small, patient friendly, and physician friendly system that is vital to the economic and healthcare sectors within the state. Please give The Centurion Foundation a chance to invest in our state.

Sincerely,

R. James Kones, MD, FACS, FSSO



From: [Joe F \[REDACTED\]](#)
To: [HealthCare](#)
Subject: C/O Julia Harvey, Health Care Advocate
Date: Monday, February 19, 2024 4:15:39 PM

[External email: Use caution with links and attachments]

Dear Ms. Harvey:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Hospital Conversion Act application currently pending before you agency regarding the sale of CharterCare Health Partners Medical Holdings to Centurion Foundation.

As the former Mayor of the town of Johnston for 16 years, a Rhode Island State Senator for 12 years and a retired Firefighter for 22 years (18 of those years on Rescue/EMS and a Registered Nurse for over 35 years I am uniquely qualified and familiar with both hospitals and their importance to not only the town of Johnston but the communities that those hospitals currently serve in terms of valuable emergency care not to mention medical, surgical and ambulatory services. We always had a GREAT relationship between our public safety departments and the hospitals and I know that continues today. The availability of critical care services and the close proximity of these institutions to the town of Johnston and the surrounding communities can mean a difference of life and death. With my experience as a Firefighter/Nurse/Mayor/State Senator I could give you several examples.

I do understand that one aspect of the sale is to maintain local management of the hospitals with oversight by a local board. Not only is that essential in my view, I can absolutely vouch for the responsiveness of the current leadership team and we have always had an excellent rapport. As Mayor of Johnston I had called on the leadership team to help several of my residents and they always responded in a very positive way and helped .

Another benefit would be for these hospitals to return to a not-for-profit status. I do believe this too is a needed change and will help stabilize finances and allow the system to focus on growth and continue provide much needed services in the community.

Personally as a lifetime resident of Johnston, former health care professional and (my family and I) patient/patients I can attest to the high quality of care and compassion of the care both of those hospitals provide to the community. I do believe that not only the Town of Johnston but several other surrounding communities would be seriously be compromised if either hospital were to scale back their services or even close.

I cannot speak to the qualifications of the proposed buyer, but it would appear to me that a group that is interested in coming to Rhode Island, stepping up to invest in these two hospital's save jobs save the hospitals and return these hospitals to their charitable missions is worthy of serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Mayor Joseph M. Polisena Sr. RN. M.Ed. AEMT-C State EMT I/C

From: [Ray, \[REDACTED\]](#)
To: [HealthCare](#)
Subject: sale of RGMC to Centurion
Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 11:22:03 AM

[External email: Use caution with links and attachments]

Dear Julia Harvey

My name is Donna Ray and i work in Nuclear Medicine at RGMC, and I love my job , the people I work with and the patients we serve. When I started working here [REDACTED] I did not truly understand how evil Prospect Medical Holdings is for the Rhode Island health care community.

Most of the equipment here is 20 plus years old and past end of life, and on a regular basis supplies are not available since they don't pay our suppliers, all the while the upper management are making billions of dollars. Please help facilitate the sale to Centurion and help us return to non-profit so we can better serve the healthcare of the Rhode Island community.

Thanks,

Donna

From: [REDACTED] James
To: [HealthCare](#)
Subject: Letter of Support
Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 9:59:53 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-e3xdus03.png](#)

[External email: Use caution with links and attachments]

Julia Harvey, Health Care Advocate
Health Care Unit
RI Office of the Attorney General
150 South main Street
Providence RI 02903
healthcare@riag.ri.gov

Dear Julia Harvey,

I'm writing to support the HCA application and sale of CharterCARE to The Centurion Foundation. I'm the System Director of Diagnostic Imaging and have worked at CCHP for one year. Allowing CCHP to return to nonprofit status will benefit the City of Providence as patients, staff, and the community will enjoy improvements from Centurion's investment in the community.

I have worked extremely hard my entire life to obtain my Director of Radiology role, and I feel I have finally reached the pinnacle of my career. I love my job and how I'm able to positively increase patient and employee experiences here in the state of Rhode Island.

I truly believe that CharterCARE hospitals are essential to the local healthcare market and economy as volumes continue to increase.

Respectfully,
James

James [REDACTED] MBA, RT (R)(CT)
Director of Diagnostic Imaging
[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED], Kylie
To: [HealthCare](#)
Subject: Roger Williams Medical Center and the Centurion Foundation
Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 2:14:27 PM

[External email: Use caution with links and attachments]

Dear Julia Harvey,

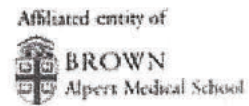
I am a Nuclear Medicine technologist at Roger Williams Medical Center and Fatima Hospital. I am relatively new to this field and started working at RWH 6 months ago. I knowingly chose to make this hospital my "job home" because of the wonderful employees that work here, the community, the close partnership with Fatima Hospital, and the hospital's purpose as a cancer center here in RI. I strongly want to see this hospital and Fatima Hospital thrive and grow with the potential it holds. With new leadership from the not-for-profit Centurion Foundation guiding us forward, I see no more limits or obstacles in our way. Failing equipment, outdated equipment, and short staff are only a few of the major hurdles we overcome on a daily basis. My role as an employee here reaches beyond my department. I play a helping role with Y-90 Beta-emitting therapy treatments and with the RI PET/CT mobile unit that comes to our hospitals. As a cancer institute, Nuclear Medicine, theragnostics, and PET imaging plays a necessary role for local Rhode Islanders. I am a young employee; I would want nothing more than to see my future grow here.

Thank you and best regards,

Kylie [REDACTED]

Louis [REDACTED], MD

Adult Reconstruction
Orthopaedic Surgery



[REDACTED]

Julia Harvey, Health Care Advocate
Health Care Unit
RI Office of the Attorney General
150 South Main Street
Providence RI 02903

February 20, 2024

Dear Ms. Harvey,

I am writing in support of the HCA application and sale of CharterCARE to The Centurion Foundation. I have been a member of the Medical Staffs at Roger Williams Medical Center and Our Lady of Fatima Hospital since [REDACTED] Chief of Orthopedic Surgery at Roger Williams Medical Center since 1997, a member of the Roger Williams Medical Center Board of Trustees and now Roger Williams Medical Center Advisory Board since [REDACTED] and a member of the Prospect CharterCARE Board of Directors since [REDACTED]. In addition, I have held numerous leadership positions at both hospitals including President of the Medical Staff at Roger Williams and I am currently the Chair of the Credentials Committee at Roger Williams. I am the third of four generations of surgeons at both hospitals and practice exclusively at the two hospitals.

Fatima and Roger Williams are unique hospitals. Fatima provides excellent patient care in a doctor friendly setting. Roger Williams offers services usually found only in large academic institutions but at lower cost and a more manageable size. Both are wonderful hospitals with long serving and loyal staff and grateful patients.

I was supportive of the sale of CharterCARE to Prospect Medical Holdings knowing there were infrastructure needs at both institutions and insufficient revenue and endowment to address the issues. I now realize I was naïve to believe Prospect Medical Holdings and CharterCARE shared the same vision. Prospect's current debt and lack of hospital support have left both hospitals struggling to meet their mission.

The sale of CharterCARE to The Centurion Foundation offers an opportunity for the hospitals to return to nonprofit status and regain local control and governance. I look forward to being free from the constraints of Prospect and able to again pursue our stated visions. My patients are concerned about losing Fatima and Roger Williams. I would like to reassure them their favorite hospitals will remain and regain their former glory.

Thank you for considering supporting the sale of CharterCARE to The Centurion Foundation,

Louis J. [REDACTED] D

From: Marshall [REDACTED]
To: HealthCare
Subject: CharterCare Support Letter
Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 2:39:43 PM

[External email: Use caution with links and attachments]

Julia Harvey, Health Care Advocate

Health Care Unit

RI Office of the Attorney General

150 South main Street

Providence RI 02903

Dear Ms Harvey,

I fully support the sale of CharterCare to The Centurion Foundation. I had the privilege of serving on the Board of CharterCare prior to the sale to Prospect. I believe the best ownership model for all hospitals is "not for profit". This is the cornerstone of my support. Satisfying shareholders and patients invites unnecessary competition for resources.

I have witnessed first-hand the great accomplishments of the dedicated doctors, nurses and staff of the hospitals which make up the CharterCare System. I believe the smaller size care units provide for a more welcoming environment for all patients and positively impact healthcare outcomes. The continued success of CharterCare is essential to the Rhode Island healthcare market.

Sincerely,

Marshall

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] Sarah
To: [HealthCare](#)
Subject: CharterCARE
Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 1:06:18 PM

[External email: Use caution with links and attachments]

Ms. Harvey -

I am reaching out in regard to the HCA application and sale of CharterCARE. As the Patient Experience Officer overseeing Our Lady of Fatima Hospital and Roger Williams Medical Center, I am in full support of becoming a part of The Centurion Foundation.

Like most, I got into healthcare to make a difference and help people. I believe that regarding our situation, this can best be done with local leadership and nonprofit status. Despite all of the challenges we've faced under the current ownership, I have seen our teams continue to strive for excellence, prioritizing patient care and in turn, their experience at both hospitals.

I read every single survey comment, as well as round on as many possible patients as my time allows, so I truly believe I have a good pulse on how they feel about their time spent at both hospitals. Although it's something to be proud of, I know the potential this organization has to do even better under new ownership.

Thanks for taking the time to listen,
Sarah K

Sarah [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
CharterCARE Health Partners

From: [REDACTED], Abdu [REDACTED]
To: Fernanda.lopes@health.ri.gov; [HealthCare](#)
Subject: RE; HCA application and sale of CharterCARE to The Centurion Foundation
Date: Thursday, February 8, 2024 9:51:32 PM

[External email: Use caution with links and attachments]

Dear Fernanda Lopes and Julia Harvey,

I want to introduce myself. I am Abdul [REDACTED], a surgical oncologist at CharterCARE (Roger Williams Medical Center and Our Lady of Fatima Hospital). I have worked at CharterCARE for ten years as a cancer surgeon specializing in complex gastrointestinal, pancreatic, and liver cancers. I am writing to support the HCA application and sale of CharterCARE to The Centurion Foundation.

Besides providing surgical oncology care to hundreds of patients in our community, through CharterCARE, I have had the support to start a community outreach and patient navigation program to educate our Hispanic community about colorectal cancer prevention and help them overcome barriers to screening colonoscopy. This program has assisted over 1000 Hispanic patients in our community to get screened for colorectal cancer. Many of them have benefited from this "lifesaving" procedure by detecting cancer in its early stages, improving outcomes and the possibility of a cure. The program has had such a profound impact that it has been recognized by multiple awards at the local level (Directors Awards from the RIDOH, Champions Awards from the Latino Cancer Task Force, Dr. John Cunningham Award by RIHCA, Dr. Joseph DiMasse Award by the Partnership to Reduce Cancer of RI) and at the National level by the American Cancer Society with the Adams Lane Award and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with the Carol Friedman Award. The program is open and continues to help many Hispanics thanks to CharterCARE's support and interest in cancer care prevention for underserved populations in our state.

When we first started this program, CharterCARE was a Not-for-profit institution. I am sure that returning to this status under the Centurion Foundation will allow us to continue and expand the program services to other underserved communities in RI. We have met with the Centurion Foundation leadership, and it has been clear that they will maintain local leadership and control through a local board. Undoubtedly, they will invest in our programs and make structural changes to provide even higher-quality services.

As a young Hispanic professional, I have found in RI and CharterCARE a professional environment that cherishes diversity and supports programs that could help decrease healthcare disparities and improve health equity. For this reason, I have decided to stay at CharterCARE for over ten years and made RI my home. I want to keep collaborating with the DOH and many not-for-profit organizations to decrease the cancer burden in RI, and I would not be able to do it without CharterCARE's support.

I do not think it is necessary to mention how critical the cancer care we provide at RWMC and OLF is. However, imagine how many patients will not benefit from our patient navigation program or will not get their colonoscopy on time because our system cannot provide services anymore. How long will cancer patients have to wait to be diagnosed or to access specialized cancer care? Currently, I see any new patient with a cancer diagnosis within 48 hours of referral because I know how difficult and stressful it is to hear the cancer diagnosis. Without CharterCARE hospitals, the quality of care and time to care will be unacceptable, putting Rhode Islanders at risk of worse outcomes. The health care services we provide are essential for our community, and I can only imagine what would be of the pancreatic cancer patient I operated on last week within two weeks of the diagnosis if she had to wait two months to see a specialist because the RI health system is overwhelmed.

I have to say I feel proud of all we have accomplished in the cancer care field; we could not have done it without CharterCARE's support. However, there is more work to be done, and by supporting and expediting the sale of CharterCARE to the Centurion Foundation, you will guarantee that we will keep providing and expanding our high-quality cancer care services.

Thank you again for supporting the application.

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