



Appendix D – Letters of Support



December 10, 2020

Alexandria Hicks
Certificate of Need Program Coordinator
Division of Health Care Services
3601 C Street, Suite 978
Anchorage, AK 99503

Re: Maple Springs Living Certificate of Need Application

Dear Ms. Hicks:

Cook Inlet Region, Inc. (CIRI) is an Alaska Native Corporation formed pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 and owned by more than 9,000 shareholders representing multiple Alaska Native regions and cultures. Beyond CIRI's own business operations, the corporation is affiliated with several regional non-profit organizations that provide services and funding for initiatives that benefit Alaska Natives and American Indians in southcentral Alaska.

I write this letter on behalf of CIRI and with strong support of Maple Springs' certificate of need application related to the organization's skilled nursing component of its continuum of care facility in Anchorage. Demographics in the Anchorage area, as in the rest of the state, trend toward an expanding need for skilled nursing facilities and services, which are already in short supply, and an Anchorage location will meet this critical community need. All Alaskans, including Alaska Native and non-Native members of our community, will benefit from accommodations that provide this level of care for our elders, grandparents, parents and even ourselves in the years to come.

The success of Maple Springs' skilled nursing facilities in Palmer and Wasilla show a true need in Alaska for more of these types of service provider locations, and the organization's commitment to incorporating Alaska Native foods and activities into its high quality services demonstrate that the Anchorage facility will fit nicely within its south Anchorage location and the community.

CIRI fully supports Maple Springs' certificate of need application and the operation of the Maple Springs of Anchorage project. The facility will provide skilled nursing services in an upscale, home-like atmosphere and make a positive difference in the lives of Alaska Native elders, Alaska's seniors and their families.

Sincerely yours,

Cook Inlet Region, Inc.

Sophie Minich
President and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Heidi Barnes, Certificate of Need Program Coordinator

December 21, 2020

Alexandria Hicks
Certificate of Need Program Coordinator
Division of Healthcare Services
3601 C Street Suite 978
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Ms. Hicks,

RE: Letter of Support for Maple Springs Senior Living

As the interim CEO of Alaska Regional Hospital, I am writing to offer my full support of Maple Springs Senior Living in Anchorage, Alaska. They have fully engaged the hospital in this project to understand the needs of our patients.

The hospital and community face tremendous challenges everyday. One example is the growing cost of healthcare cost in Anchorage due to the lack of post acute services and limited options available for patients. The shortage of services not only impacts Anchorage but the entire state is underserved as well. The lack of services places members of our community and state at risk for higher readmission rates and poor outcomes. The addition of skilled nursing beds will significantly improve quality of life by providing appropriate care post acute care for all Alaskans.

The availability of these additional needed skilled nursing beds will also add to the continuum of care that is needed. This will allow additional inpatient bed capacity in our acute care facilities as patients needing post acute care will have the option to transfer to the appropriate level of care within the state of Alaska.

Maple Springs has become a proven operator of Skilled Nursing in Alaska with their most recent addition of buildings and operating a successfully facility in the Mat-Su Valley.

I fully support this CON application and the development of Maple Springs. This is a much needed and welcomed enhancement for post acute care services for Anchorage and the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Opsut
Interim CEO
Alaska Regional Hospital



December 3, 2020

Alexandria Hicks
Certificate of Need Program Coordinator
Division of Healthcare Services
3601 C Street Suite 978 Anchorage, AK 99503

RE: Reference Letter for Maple Springs

Dear Ms. Hicks:

Please accept this reference letter from the Mat-Su Health Foundation for Maple Springs, which is applying for a Certificate of Need (CON) to develop additional Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) beds in the Anchorage region. Mat-Su Health Foundation (MSHF) is the official business name of Valley Hospital Association, Inc., which shares ownership in Mat-Su Regional Medical Center (MSRMC). MSHF invests its assets into charitable works to improve the wellness and health of Alaskans living in Mat-Su to help Mat-Su to become the healthiest borough in the U.S.

We acknowledge the Municipality of Anchorage is its own defined service area, separate from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough service area. While we cannot speak to the specific Anchorage service area demand for additional SNF beds, we can attest to the expertise and follow-through of Maple Springs to deliver what it proposes. Maple Springs has completed the build-out of SNF beds in Mat-Su, per the CON granted by the State of Alaska. Not only have they filled a gap in the Long-Term Services & Supports (LTSS) continuum of care, but they have also bought and strengthened the largest homecare & hospice agency serving Mat-Su. In addition, they stepped up as a critical resource and partner in COVID-response planning with the Mat-Su Borough, MSRMC and AK DHSS. They increased access to care for critical services for the state's fastest growing older adult population in Mat-Su.

When MSHF published the 2011 Mat-Su Regional Plan for the Delivery of Senior Services, we pushed the findings out to developers. Most would not consider investing in Mat-Su due to geography and workforce despite immense demand and sustainable financing. Maple Springs stepped up. They saw the possibilities and were committed from the start. They have been professional, compassionate, and responsive to community needs. For instance, they heard the pleas of community members to explore the inclusion of residential hospice beds in their campus. We needed these beds so that more Mat-Su residents at the end of life—particularly those without a caregiver—could benefit from hospice services. They developed these beds, a long-time goal of Valley Hospice Resources and other agencies.

Our original letter of support for the Maples Springs SNF development in Mat-Su declared we could not speak to the quality of the facility and operations proposed by Maple Springs. Now we can. They are operating their facility with the highest level of quality and have passed all licensing and industry certification standards. They have met workforce challenges and attracted quality staff. They are committed to addressing underserved needs in LTSS.

MSHF regards Maple Springs as a valued partner in creating a healthier community. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 907-354-3595 or eripley@healthymatsu.org if you have questions about MSHF's reference for Maple Springs.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Ripley
Chief Executive Officer



First National Bank
A L A S K A

November 23, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Doug Longacre and I am the president of First National Bank Alaska. I am writing to you today regarding our customer Maple Springs.

Maple Springs has been an exemplary partner and has an excellent relationship with First National Bank Alaska. They are a prestigious senior healthcare provider and we have helped finance both their Mat-Su Skilled Nursing Facility and their Palmer Skilled Nursing facility among other endeavors. While working with them throughout all phases of these projects they have demonstrated financial diligence, attention to detail, communicativeness and responsibility, and have been great to work with. Their ability to raise capital and complete projects on time and on budget is impressive. They have a solid history with the bank and continue to pay as agreed. We look forward to future opportunities with Maple Springs.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call and I will be happy to answer them.

Sincerely,

Doug Longacre
President
(907) 777-3556

