



Mr. Corey D. Gruber
Acting Deputy Administrator
National Preparedness Directorate
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane, Building 410
Washington D.C. 20528-7000

July 11, 2007

Mr. Gruber:

I am the Director of Emergency Preparedness at Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana, Illinois. Carle is the primary Level One trauma center for East Central Illinois.

Carle Foundation Hospital is an Illinois Department of Public Health designated "POD" or "Lead Disaster Preparedness Hospital" in EMS Region Six. Region Six consists of twenty-two counties and fourteen hospitals in East Central Illinois.

As the POD hospital, and in accordance with the federally funded ASPR Hospital Preparedness grant, we are charged with finding facilities that could be used as an alternative hospital or surge facility in the event of a disaster.

We have been working with ILEAS staff on the re-development of the former Champaign County Nursing Home as an alternative hospital or surge facility site for special needs or advanced care patients during mass evacuations or regional, state or national emergencies. The facility offers a very unique opportunity for the public health community in Illinois. It is rare to have an actual patient care facility with all the requisite support available at a moment's notice. Carle is dedicated to being prepared for the eventuality of such crises and believes that this facility could play a significant role in patient management during disasters.

Additionally, Carle Hospital believes that the training mission that ILEAS is undertaking in this facility would be beneficial to the medical community. It could be a place for any medical organization to train and exercise the establishment and management of a surge facility. We also believe that medical security managers would find this asset valuable as a training facility for their staff as well.

In summary, Carle Hospital wholeheartedly supports ILEAS's effort to acquire this facility and turn it into a regional, state and national asset. If you have any questions or need any other supporting documentation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anita Guffey" followed by the initials "JF".

Anita Guffey EMT-P
Emergency Preparedness Director
Carle Foundation Hospital