

SENATOR PAUL BAILEY

State of Tennessee

NASHVILLE

CORDELL HULL BUILDING
425 REP JOHN LEWIS WAY N
SUITE 736
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
37243
(615) 741-3978

MEMBER OF COMMITTEES
Chairman of Commerce and Labor
Transportation

March 26, 2026

Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Facilities Commission
502 Deaderick Street, Andrew Jackson Building, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: Certificate of Need Application for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

As a member of the Tennessee State Senate from the 15th district, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC to build a new free-standing 40-bed comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation hospital in Cookeville, TN. I currently serve as the Chair, Commerce and Labor Committee, member of the Fiscal Review Committee, and the Transportation and Safety Committee.

As a resident and state senator representing the needs and wishes of the approximately 230,000 residents in the 15th District communities of Cumberland, Jackson, Putnam, Smith, Van Buren, and White Counties, I am always concerned about the health and well-being of our citizens. Having adequate and comprehensive health care services, inclusive of comprehensive inpatient rehabilitative care, is especially important for our growing and aging population in the Upper Cumberland Region. Cookeville Regional Medical Center has been the primary hub for acute hospital care, with their existing inpatient rehab unit being an important part of their services. Their joint venture with Encompass Health, the leading provider of inpatient rehabilitation hospitals in the country, brings tremendous opportunity to expand their inpatient rehab program to a state-of-the-art free-standing facility on their campus.

The Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville will address our rapidly growing population throughout the region. Cookeville is among the fastest growing micropolitan areas in the US, and Putnam and Cumberland Counties are among the state's most populated areas. The Upper Cumberland Region is a premier retirement destination contributing to the rise in residents over the age of sixty-five (65). Their need for comprehensive healthcare services is of paramount importance. Patients who have suffered a stroke, brain injury, spinal cord injury, hip fracture, major traumatic injuries, and many other diagnoses must be able to secure the comprehensive and advanced inpatient rehabilitative care that is needed and necessary after discharge from the acute-care hospital that is close to home, family and local healthcare providers. Having a comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation hospital close to the patients' home allows for and

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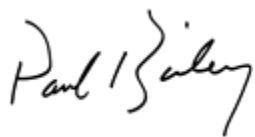
MEMBER OF COMMITTEES
Chairman of Commerce and Labor
Transportation

encourages family and caregiver participation in the rehabilitative journey, thus promoting better outcomes and readiness to return to their home and activities of daily living.

In addition to the obvious healthcare continuum of care advantages for our communities, this new hospital will provide well over 100 high paying jobs for multiple professional/clinical and support personnel, a \$68+ million investment in our community, and serve as a tax-paying entity.

I am strongly supportive and encourage your approval of this certificate of need application for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC to build a new rehab hospital within my district to serve the many patients who need and would benefit from this level of advanced rehabilitative care. The citizens of the Upper Cumberland Region deserve to have this service that is close to their home and loved ones. I appreciate your consideration of this important proposal. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Paul Bailey

15th District of Tennessee



Ryan Williams

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
House District 42

rep.ryan.williams@capitol.tn.gov

Legislative Office
Cordell Hull Building
425 Rep John Lewis Way, Suite 612
Nashville, TN 37243
(615) 741-1875

House of Representatives State of Tennessee

NASHVILLE

CHAIRMAN

Finance, Ways, & Means
Subcommittee

MEMBER

Finance, Ways, & Means Committee
Health Committee
Appropriations and Oversight Subcommittee
Health Subcommittee
Joint Ways and Means Committee

March 26, 2026

Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Facilities Commission
State of Tennessee
502 Deaderick Street, Andrew Jackson Building, 9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: Certificate of Need Application for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

As a member of the Tennessee House of Representatives from the 42nd district, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC to build a new free-standing 40-bed comprehensive rehabilitation hospital on the campus of Cookeville Regional Medical Center (CRMC). I currently serve on the Health Committee, the Health Subcommittee, the Finance, Ways, and Means Committee, among several others.

Currently, many patients in the Putnam County and Upper Cumberland Region, where my district resides, who require specialized rehabilitation, occasionally must travel outside of their home community when there are no private rooms available in the existing Rehab Center on the campus at CRMC. This adds undue stress to their recovery process. This new 40-bed rehabilitation hospital will expand access to state-of-the-art, high-quality care while ensuring seamless coordination between inpatient rehabilitation and acute care services.

Beyond the clinical benefits, this project will provide additional high paying jobs, bringing the total to 100-130 employees, over half of which are dedicated to patient care. The presence of a strong healthcare workforce – including nurses, physical and occupational therapists, and speech-language pathologists – is essential to meeting the needs of our rapidly growing communities. The hospital's connection to nursing and allied health schools throughout

Tennessee will further ensure that it is staffed with highly trained professionals, enhancing both patient outcomes and workforce stability.

This facility will strengthen our healthcare infrastructure, provide patients with high-quality, specialized care close to home, and support the continued growth of the Upper Cumberland Region's healthcare sector. I urge the Health Facilities Commission to approve this Certificate of Need Application for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC. This project is an investment in our community's health and well-being, and I am confident it will make a lasting positive impact. Please feel free to reach out if I can provide further information in support of this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RW', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ryan Williams
State Representative – District 42



March 18, 2026

Logan Grant
Executive Director
Health Facilities Commission
State of Tennessee
502 Deaderick Street, Andrew Jackson Building
9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: Certificate of Need Application for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

I am pleased to provide you with this letter of support for the proposed Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC's Certificate of Need Application recently filed with your office. As I have been the Mayor of Putnam County for over a decade, I am excited about this proposed 40-bed comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation hospital to serve the citizens of Putnam and the neighboring counties in the Upper Cumberland region.

We are proud of our local Cookeville Regional Medical Center and the wonderful care they provide to our citizens. Their inpatient rehabilitation unit is small and has limited capability to expand. Several of its rehab beds are in semi-private rooms, which is undesirable for most patients who need the comprehensive and advanced rehabilitative care that modern facilities have to offer. Patients who need and would benefit from this service, such as those who have suffered a stroke, brain injury, hip fracture, spinal cord injury, amputations, and many other conditions, will be able to receive their care close to their home, family and friends in a new state-of-the-art freestanding inpatient rehab hospital on the campus of CRMC. Patients recover better when their family and caregivers are able to participate in their rehabilitative journey, therefore being close to home is important for the ease and convenience of travel to their loved one.

Cookeville is among the nation's fastest growing micropolitan areas in the United States, with Putnam and Cumberland Counties among the state's most populated. The Upper Cumberland Region is a premier retirement destination. This area is home to a large number of "half back retirees" as they move "halfway back" to their original state. With this population growth we anticipate an increased need for all services, particularly healthcare. Cookeville Regional Medical Center is preparing to expand their acute-care bed capacity, and it only makes sense to expand the inpatient rehab bed capacity as well. I understand that currently twenty (20) percent

of residents from Putnam and surrounding counties travel to distant inpatient rehabilitation facilities for care such as Knoxville and Nashville. This new proposed rehab hospital will allow those individuals and others to remain close to home for their post-acute rehabilitative journey.

This new comprehensive rehabilitation hospital provides high paying jobs (100-130) for multiple professional/clinical and support personnel. Encompass is a tax-paying entity and will be a \$68+ million financial investment in our local community.

Encompass Health is the largest inpatient rehabilitation provider in the United States and is a well-respected industry leader. Cookeville Regional Medical Center has partnered with Encompass Health to provide high quality inpatient rehabilitation services. This adds tremendous consumer advantages as this provides rehab services locally for patients in need of intensive rehab care. I sincerely hope the Health Facilities Commission will give affirmative consideration for this certificate of need for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC. Thank you.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Randy Porter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "R".

Randy Porter
Mayor, Putnam County



COOKEVILLE
PUTNAM COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

March 30, 2026

Logan Grant
Executive Director
Health Facilities Commission
State of Tennessee
502 Deaderick Street, Andrew Jackson Building
9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: Certificate of Need Application for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

I am writing to express support for the approval of the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC's Certificate of Need to build an acute comprehensive inpatient physical rehabilitation hospital on the campus of Cookeville Regional Medical Center.

Our support for this project is rooted in Cookeville's leadership and the town's vision for welcoming this new facility. The Town of Cookeville has been clear in its commitment to this project, recognizing the positive impact it will have for residents and for the community at large. By choosing to keep this new rehab hospital on the main campus of CRMC, patients will continue to access needed care close to home in a state-of-the-art facility with all private rooms, large therapy spaces, family meeting rooms and so much more. Cookeville will strengthen its role as a center for healthcare services in the Upper Cumberland Region and be able to accommodate many more patients who need and will benefit from comprehensive rehabilitative services.

As a Chamber, we are always guided by the needs and priorities of our member communities. In this case, we are supporting this request because we see how this project aligns with the town's economic and community development goals. The proposed facility will not only provide critical healthcare services, but will also bring new jobs, generate tax revenue, and create additional educational and workforce opportunities that benefit Cookeville and the wider region.

We hope you will look favorably on this request and approve the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC's Certificate of Need to build this comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation hospital in Putnam County. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Amy New
President and CEO
Cookeville-Putnam County Chamber of Commerce

o (931) 526-2211
(800) 264-5541

f (931) 526-4023

1 WEST FIRST STREET
COOKEVILLE, TN 38501

www.CookevilleChamber.com

Alma L. Anderson
613 N. Dixie Avenue
Cookeville TN 38501

March 19, 2026

Logan Grant
Executive Director
Health Facilities Commission
State of Tennessee
502 Deaderick Street, Andrew Jackson Building
9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: Certificate of Need Application for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

As a long-time friend, supporter, and current member of the Board of Trustees of Cookeville Regional Medical Center (CRMC), I am pleased to provide this letter of support and recommendation for your approval of this Certificate of Need application to build a new free-standing forty (40) bed comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation hospital on the CRMC campus.

Cookeville Regional Medical Center has a rich history in our community and is highly regarded as a 289-bed premier healthcare institution in the Upper Cumberland Region. The City of Cookeville takes immense pride in its tremendous growth throughout the last 100 years providing exceptional healthcare services to residents of all ages. As a longtime resident and former educator in the Putnam County School System, I am honored to be a part of this extraordinary healthcare institution.

CRMC has had an excellent inpatient rehab unit, and we are pleased to have recently partnered with Encompass Health to continue its delivery of advanced comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation. Their commitment to excellence with industry-leading outcomes is built upon a foundation of post-acute innovation and best practices. Encompass brings its proprietary advanced technology, robust datasets, predictive analytics, and EMR technology for better post-acute management. They mirror CRMC's commitment to continuous improvement of our people and processes through engagement, education, and career ladders.

As Cookeville is among the nation's fastest growing micropolitan areas in the nation and the Upper Cumberland Region is a premier retirement destination, we, at CRMC, are always looking ahead to the future needs of our community. CRMC will be adding twenty additional acute-care licensed beds to its existing 289 for a total of 309 in the very near future. Our twenty (20) bed rehab unit also needs to expand its capacity. The unit is small, with a combination of private and semi-private rooms, and is outdated. All patients today prefer a private room which can limit the number of patients currently served in that unit. Approximately 20% of service area residents travel to distant inpatient rehabilitation facilities for care (such as Knoxville and Nashville areas).

With the combined growth in population and the growth in capacity in the acute-care hospital it only makes sense to enlarge the number of beds in the rehab unit to meet the need for inpatient rehabilitation hospital beds.

The proposed "Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC" will provide our community with a beautiful, two-story hospital with forty (40) inpatient rehab beds, a large spacious gym for physical and occupational therapy, an apartment-like suite for activities of daily living, a dialysis suite, ample spaces for family interaction and participation, and appropriate spaces for the clinical and non-clinical support staff. This new rehab hospital will allow patients to remain close to home without having to travel to distant inpatient rehab facilities.

It is Cookeville Regional Medical Center's goal, and hence this proposed CON project, to continuously meet the needs of our growing and aging population by adding twenty (20) IRF beds to its existing twenty beds. The proposed project will ensure that CRMC continues now and, in the future, to be accessible and available to patients in need of comprehensive inpatient rehabilitative services that are close to home. I strongly support and recommend your approval of this CON application for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Alma L. Anderson
Member, Board of Trustees
Cookeville Regional Medical Center



1 Medical Center Boulevard • Cookeville, TN 38501
(931) 528-2541
www.crmchealth.org

March 17, 2026

Logan Grant
Executive Director
Health Facilities Commission
State of Tennessee
502 Deaderick Street, Andrew Jackson Building
9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: Certificate of Need Application for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

In my role as Chief Medical Officer for Cookeville Regional Medical Center (CRMC), I am writing on behalf of our Medical Staff to express my support for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC's Certificate of Need application to add twenty (20) new comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation hospital beds to its existing 20 rehab beds in a new free-standing hospital on the CRMC campus. For decades, CRMC has been empowering Tennesseans by changing healthcare. We continue to fuel growth through safe, high-quality care close to home with an integrated health care system that provides a hassle-free, unified experience. We make a positive difference in every life we touch in the communities we serve by providing advanced medical technology, modern facilities, and the Upper Cumberland region's highest quality physicians and medical professionals.

We work tirelessly in our hospital and in our system to ensure the entire continuum of care is readily accessible to our patients and community. We provide outstanding multi-specialty practices throughout the greater Cookeville area and entire Upper Cumberland region to serve as an entry point into our health system giving our patients access to expert physicians, the most advanced technologies, and convenient locations. Our hospital provides the highest quality and most comprehensive array of inpatient services from birth to home health and everything in between. We rely upon our healthcare partners to provide post-acute care when needed, such as acute inpatient rehabilitation services within our existing comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation facility (IRF).

One of the many expectations facing all healthcare providers and patients is timely access to specialized post-acute care that promotes optimal outcomes and achieves maximum functional potential and return to activities of daily living. Our team of physician hospitalists and nursing

case managers appreciate the timely response from our inpatient rehab unit to admit our patients quickly when they are ready for discharge. Having a strong inpatient rehabilitation hospital that specializes in advanced therapeutic modalities and specialized medical and nursing care allows us to place appropriate patients in the appropriate setting at the appropriate time, which is key to providing patients with an overall continuum of care. CRMC's inpatient rehabilitation unit, however, houses only ten private and five semi-private rooms which is undesirable for most patients and does not adequately meet the community need for IRF beds. We have partnered with Encompass Health, nationally recognized as the inpatient rehabilitation hospital provider of choice to address the community need for more inpatient rehab beds.

Our acute care hospital is often at 80-90% occupancy. The need for adequate post-acute care resources, particularly comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation services, is extremely important to be able to refer patients who will benefit from this advanced level of rehabilitative care in a timely manner. We are about to expand our inpatient capacity from 289 acute care beds to 309 acute care beds, which will further intensify the need for more inpatient rehabilitation beds within our community.

For all the reasons mentioned above, my colleagues and I at Cookeville Regional Medical Center strongly encourage you to approve this Certificate of Need for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC. Thank you for your consideration,

Respectfully,



Bruce "DW" Johnson, MD
Board Certified Anesthesiologist
Chief Medical Officer
Cookeville Regional Medical Center

TIER 1 ORTHOPEDICS

James D. McKinney, M.D.
John M. Turnbull, M.D.
Gregory J. Roberts, M.D.
Kenneth Grinspun, M.D.
Derek Worley, M.D.
David Burstedt, M.D.
Shawn Stachler, D.O.

Christopher Juels, D.P.M.
Michael Pahl, M.D.
Heather Taillac, M.D.
Jonathon Srouer, D.P.M.
Brian Huff, D.O.
Adrian Viñas, M.D.
Taylor Dennison, M.D.



TIER 1 ORTHOPEDIC AND
NEUROSURGICAL
INSTITUTE
A MEMBER OF THE CAMPBELL CLINIC FAMILY

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35 Taylor Avenue
Crossville, TN 38555
www.T1institute.com

TIER 1 NEUROSURGERY

Joseph A. Jestus, M.D.
Walter J. Jermakowicz, M.D.

March 18, 2026

Logan Grant
Executive Director
Health Facilities Commission
State of Tennessee
502 Deaderick Street, Andrew Jackson Building
9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: Certificate of Need Application for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Certificate of Need application submitted by the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC to build a new 40-bed comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation facility to serve the citizens of Cookeville and the surrounding communities within Upper Cumberland Region.

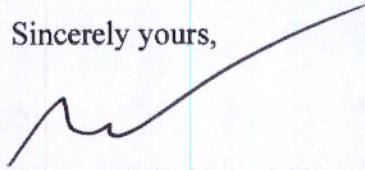
I am a Board-Certified Orthopedic Surgeon with a specialty in primary and revision hip and knee replacements and sports medicine. I strive to treat every patient as I would a family member, and as such, am in full support of the proposed new comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation hospital in Cookeville, TN. Many patients, particularly the elderly who may be afflicted with other comorbid conditions, or the multi-trauma vehicular accident patient, require advanced rehabilitative technology and around-the-clock nursing and physician care after stabilizing in the acute care hospital setting. The multidisciplinary team approach makes a tremendous difference in the patient's functional and cognitive outcomes and optimal recovery and ability to return to their activities of daily living.

Comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation beds are limited in the rehab unit at Cookeville Regional Medical Center (CRMC) and therefore needed to serve more patients who need and would benefit from this level of care. CRMC has partnered with Encompass Health, a nationally known and respected provider of comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation. Together they will undoubtedly bring advanced technology and provide industry-leading outcomes that are built upon a foundation of post-acute innovation and best practices. In addition, by building this free-standing facility on the campus of CRMC, it will keep patients local and allow the patients'

family and caregivers to be active participants in their rehabilitative journey, an especially important aspect of recovery.

I strongly urge the Commission to approve this certificate of need application for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC. It will greatly benefit those in my practice and others the opportunity to regain independence and function after their acute care hospital experience. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory J. Roberts, MD'. The signature is fluid and cursive, starting with a large 'G' and ending with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke that extends to the right.

Gregory J. Roberts, MD
Board Certified Orthopedic Surgeon



1 Medical Center Boulevard • Cookeville, TN 38501
(931) 528-2541
www.crmchealth.org

March 26, 2026

Logan Grant
Executive Director
Health Facilities Commission
State of Tennessee
502 Deaderick Street, Andrew Jackson Building
9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: Certificate of Need Application for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

I am pleased to offer this letter of support and recommendation for the approval of the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC's certificate of need application to build a new, free-standing comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation hospital on the campus of Cookeville Regional Medical Center (CRMC). I am honored to serve as the President of the Medical Staff and a member of the Board of Trustees at CRMC and have extensive knowledge and understanding of the need for this important project.

In addition to the roles above, I am also a practicing hospitalist and ICU intensivist. Together with my colleagues we care for thousands of patients per year throughout the medical center, from newborn to geriatrics in a large variety of specialties. Patients who are hospitalized for the treatment of strokes, cardiac events, complex orthopedics, neurological insults, hip or spinal fractures, extremity amputations, and many other conditions often require ongoing post-acute rehabilitative care. Comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation facilities, such as the small unit we have on our campus, provide rehab trained physicians (physiatrists), rehab nurses, physical, occupational, and speech therapists among other professionals to give every patient the opportunity to maximize their physical and cognitive functionality in preparation for returning to their home environment.

Our existing unit is small and still has several semi-private rooms, which most patients find undesirable. This limits our ability to provide comprehensive rehabilitation to more patients who need and would benefit from this level of care. This proposed new inpatient rehabilitation facility (IRF) in partnership with Encompass Health will provide forty (40) state-of-the-art private rooms and baths, a large therapy gym with proprietary advanced technology, and ample

spaces for family interaction and participation in their loved one's rehab journey. Encompass Health is known for their industry-leading outcomes built upon a foundation of post-acute innovation and best practices.

The Upper Cumberland Region is attracting retirees from all over the country, thus the population growth among our seniors is growing at a rapid pace. The growing demand for healthcare in general is already upon us and CRMC is addressing that need by adding twenty (20) additional acute care beds. It is apparent that additional IRF beds are also needed so all patients who need this level of advanced rehabilitation have access to a facility with all private rooms that is close to their home and other healthcare providers.

I urge you to approve this critically important certificate of need request for our community and our patients. It will take comprehensive rehabilitation to a higher level here in the Upper Cumberland Region. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jack Carey MD". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Jack W. Carey, MD
President of the Medical Staff
Member Board of Trustees
Hospitalist/Intensivist



**UPPER CUMBERLAND
FAMILY PHYSICIANS**

Ernest G. Buchanan IV, MD
Jane Anne Gotcher, MD

Haley King, FNP
Katie Little, FNP
Margaux Maynard, FNP
Abby Thornton, FNP

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EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

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Hannah Cole, JD
Chief Legal Officer

Tim Lawson, CPA
Chief Financial Officer

Belinda Trepanier
Chief Operating Officer

Rachael Britt-McGraw
Chief Information Officer

Eric Penniman, DO
Executive Medical Director

Valerie Walls, SHRM-SCP
Chief Human Resources Officer

Wendy Ferrell-Smith, MHI
Chief Value-Based Care Officer

March 24, 2026

Logan Grant
Executive Director
Health Facilities Commission
State of Tennessee
502 Deaderick Street, Andrew Jackson Building
9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

**Re: Certificate of Need Application for the Rehabilitation Hospital
of Cookeville, LLC**

Dear Mr. Grant:

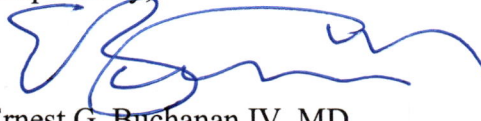
I am writing to support the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC's certificate of need request for a new comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation hospital in Putnam County. I have had a long and meaningful relationship with Cookeville Regional Medical Center over decades having served as the President of the Medical Staff and a member of the Board of Trustees. As a primary care physician with Summit Medical Group in the Upper Cumberland Family Physicians location our group serves the state of Tennessee in 23 counties, inclusive of mine in Cookeville. Each of our physicians and advanced practitioners are Board Certified in Internal Medicine or Family Practice and provide the highest quality care and excellent service to our patients. We are affiliated with several major medical centers throughout the region and are fully engaged in the comprehensive healthcare service needs of our patients.

We care for individuals of all ages and see the need for inpatient rehabilitation among our elderly patients. These patients suffer from diabetes, heart disease, pulmonary conditions, and many other conditions require close monitoring and follow up to assure their continued recovery. On those occasions when our patients require acute care hospitalization, we follow them through the continuum of services necessary to reach those goals. Patients who are debilitated, weak, have mobility deficits, or are recovering from a stroke, major trauma, lower extremity fractures, neuro injuries, etc., often require the advances and intensity of inpatient rehabilitation. Our patients who have been to Cookeville Regional Medical Center's Inpatient Rehab Center have noticeably better outcomes and likelihood of full functional and cognitive recovery compared to those who have gone to a skilled nursing facility. The provision of intense care by psychiatrists, rehab nurses, and highly skilled physical, occupational, and speech therapists makes a dramatic difference in the patient's ability to return to their activities of daily living.

We practice and live in a fast-growing, desirable location in the Upper Cumberland Region, one of the country's premier retirement destinations. The provision of comprehensive healthcare services must be able to meet the needs of our citizens and comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation is one of those services. We currently do not have enough inpatient rehabilitation beds, particularly private rooms, in our community to meet the demand, as such patients have to travel to Knoxville or Nashville for inpatient rehabilitative care. They want and need to stay local where we can continuously be within their circle of healthcare providers and even more importantly easy access to their family.

For these reasons, and more, I urge you to approve this important CON request by the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC to build a new comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation hospital on the campus or CRMC. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Ernest G. Buchanan IV, MD
Board Certified Family Practice
Past President CRMC Medical Staff
Past Member, Board of Trustees CHMC

TIER 1 ORTHOPEDICS

James D. McKinney, M.D.
John M. Turnbull, M.D.
Gregory J. Roberts, M.D.
Kenneth Grinspun, M.D.
Derek Worley, M.D.
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TIER 1 NEUROSURGERY

Joseph A. Jestus, M.D.
Walter J. Jermakowicz, M.D.

March 18, 2026

Logan Grant
Executive Director
Health Facilities Commission
State of Tennessee
502 Deaderick Street, Andrew Jackson Building
9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: Certificate of Need Application for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

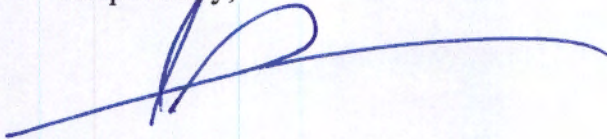
I am writing today to express my interest in and support the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC's Certificate of Need request to build a 40-bed free-standing inpatient rehabilitation hospital in Putnam County, TN. In my role as a practicing neurosurgeon, I see the need daily for intensive inpatient rehabilitation for patients who have suffered a stroke, brain bleeds, cerebral tumors, spinal cord tumors and injuries, and other debilitating conditions. These patients deserve this service close to home to not only have the opportunity to achieve the very best functional and cognitive outcomes but also to maintain the very best quality of life.

In addition to my role as a busy neurosurgeon, I work collaboratively with the medical staff and nursing and clinical support staff at Cookeville Regional Medical Center to ensure the best possible treatment options and outcomes for our patients. I serve or have served in a variety of leadership positions in the medical center and participate on the quality and credentials committees. Inpatient rehabilitation is critically important for our population of patients. The availability of advanced technology, advanced education and training for the physicians, nurses, and therapists and evidence based rehabilitation medicine is paramount in the patient's road to optimal recovery and function. Our patients often suffer from the conditions mentioned above and are often left with severe weakness, temporary or permanent paralysis, cognitive deficits, and extreme mental and physical challenges. The patient and their loved ones have to endure extensive physical, occupational and speech therapy, ongoing medical management, and learning to function with and overcome the changes in their physical and mental condition. They deserve the opportunity to receive the very best care, in the best facility, with rehab trained physicians, nurses and therapists.

It is not at all uncommon for our patients to remain in the acute care hospital beyond the recommended discharge date due to lack of available beds in a private room in the inpatient rehabilitation unit on our campus. The patient's alternative is to go elsewhere outside of their community, to a much lesser and less optimal level of care such as a skilled nursing unit or linger in the hospital awaiting for a private room here at CRMC Rehab Center. The partnership between Encompass Health and CRMC brings two very talented and successful organizations together for the provision of comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation in a new, state of the art free-standing hospital. All patients who benefit from this level of care will then have access to a private room when they are ready for discharge.

I can't emphasize enough the importance of patients receiving the best intensive and comprehensive rehabilitation after their acute-care hospitalization. As I have personally seen and experienced in my career, the benefit of inpatient rehabilitation that is close, convenient for patients, families, and providers that delivers optimal outcomes and quality of life is so very important for the communities we serve. I urge you to support and grant approval for this CON application for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jestus', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joseph Jestus, MD
Board Certified Neurosurgeon
Past President of the Medical Staff, CRMC



March 31, 2026

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Logan Grant
Executive Director
Health Facilities Commission
State of Tennessee
502 Deaderick Street, Andrew Jackson Building
9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: Certificate of Need Application for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

I am pleased to provide this letter of support and recommendation to approve the certificate of need application for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC to build a new, forty (40) bed free-standing comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation hospital on the campus of Cookeville Regional Medical Center (CRMC). As a fellowship trained vascular neurologist and as the Medical Director of the Stroke Program, I have a passion for caring for those patients who have suffered a stroke, neurological injury, debilitating neurological diseases such as multiple sclerosis, and other neurological conditions.

As a “Gold Plus” Primary Stroke Center through the Joint Commission and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, Cookeville Regional’s team has demonstrated the highest commitment of care for stroke patients and has met the highest national standards for safety and quality of care. The care and treatment of stroke patients is all-inclusive which involves rapid diagnosis and stabilizing treatment in our Emergency Department, further stabilizing treatment in our ICU and medical units, and appropriate discharge planning to secure the right post-acute rehabilitation and support resources. Many studies have shown the immense benefit that patients receive from the intensity of rehabilitative therapy provided in a comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation hospital setting, such as the one currently provided in CRMC’s Rehab Unit, and such as would be provided in the proposed expanded forty (40) bed rehab hospital. Our existing unit, however, is relatively small and has a portion of its beds arranged in semi-private rooms, which is undesirable for most patients.

CRMC has partnered with Encompass Health to build the proposed new, state-of-the-art comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation hospital on our campus. It includes all private rooms and baths, enlarged gym and therapy areas, an apartment-like setting to re-train patients in the activities of daily living, a dialysis suite for those patients needing hemodialysis during their stay, spacious rooms, and support spaces for family and friends. Having experienced the Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital at Vanderbilt Stallworth during my fellowship training in Nashville, I can attest to the high quality and excellent outcomes our patients received during their stay. I am excited about the future for my patients and others who need and will benefit from this rehab hospital expansion, where they will have a private room and will be able to remain close to home for their rehabilitation.

I highly support and recommend your approval of this important proposal. It will provide our community with a superior option for post-acute discharge care and will help meet the needs of our growing population in the Upper Cumberland Region. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Tedford M.D." in a cursive style.

Mark Tedford, MD
Board Certified, Fellowship Trained Vascular Neurology
Medical Director, Stroke Program
Cookeville Regional Medical Center



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March 26, 2026

Logan Grant
Executive Director
Health Facilities Commission
State of Tennessee
502 Deaderick Street, Andrew Jackson Building
9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: Certificate of Need Application for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

I am writing to you requesting the Health Facilities Commission's approval of the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC's Certificate of Need application to build a new comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation hospital on the campus of Cookeville Regional Medical Center in Putnam County.

I serve as the Medical Director for the hospitalist service at Cookeville Regional Medical Center (CRMC). In addition to being medical director, my other duties include Chair of the Department of Medicine. My team of physicians and advanced practitioners care for most of the admitted patients in the hospital setting. We work collaboratively with all specialists to assure a safe and comprehensive plan of care for all patients admitted to our service. In my role as medical director of the hospitalist group, I've experienced countless stories of the excellent care provided to those we serve. I have firsthand knowledge of the need for adding twenty (20) additional rehab beds to our existing twenty (20) beds to develop a new free-standing 40-bed comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation hospital to be located on the CRMC campus in Cookeville.

As Hospitalists, we are the primary admitting physician for all of the hospitals' stroke, hip fracture and neurology patients. However, when time comes for the patient to

be discharged, occasionally we have difficulty placing the patient in an inpatient rehabilitation facility (IRF) because of the limited number of beds always available. For example, our own inpatient rehabilitation unit, an excellent facility, is often at capacity which therefore delays our patients' discharge or results in them going elsewhere. I believe there is definitely a need for additional beds in Putnam County and the surrounding areas, which is consistent with my personal experience. The current gap results in less than optimal care for many of our patients, who are either discharged to a lesser intensive setting such as SNF or home with home health care services, rather than the more appropriate inpatient rehab setting. None of these choices result in optimal care or optimal outcomes. Thus, the proposed 40-bed new freestanding rehab hospital will address the current need for more IRF beds and will meet our patients' need for the intensity and advanced technology inpatient rehabilitation provides.

Our hospitalist group and I support and respectfully request approval of this CON for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebekah Sprouse". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "S".

Rebekah Sprouse, MD
Board Certified Family Practice
Medical Director Hospitalist Services



March 19, 2026

Logan Grant
Executive Director
Health Facilities Commission
State of Tennessee
502 Deaderick Street, Andrew Jackson Building
9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: Certificate of Need Application for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

I am pleased to provide you this letter of support and recommendation for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC's certificate of need request to build a new 40-bed comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation hospital ("CIPR") on the campus of Cookeville Regional Medical Center. The architectural plan for this new hospital includes a dialysis suite on the first floor which allows those patients requiring hemodialysis to remain in the building rather than having to be transported back into the acute care hospital. The location proposed on the CRMC campus is perfect to meet the needs of those patients close to their home who need this advanced level of inpatient rehabilitation hospital with private rooms and ample spaces for therapy, family participation and of course, dialysis.

I see patients in the acute care hospital setting who have suffered a stroke, cardiac event, major trauma, brain injury, amputation, or many other conditions who may also have co-morbidities such as pulmonary deficiency, diabetes and acute or chronic renal failure. Those patients who meet the medical necessity criteria and can tolerate three hours of physical, occupational, or speech therapy per day are motivated and desire to improve their quality of life choose to go to a comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation hospital versus a skilled nursing facility. Being close to the patients' home is an important decision-making factor when choosing a CIPR hospital. The patient's family and caregivers need to be able to participate in the physical and occupational therapy sessions to help prepare them for the patient's return home.

As a board-certified internal medicine and nephrology physician I am fully aware of the importance of providing dialysis for those patients who require hemodialysis three days a week within an on-site, dedicated dialysis suite. Encompass rehab hospitals, now partnered with CRMC, have dedicated dialysis suites in their buildings which allow patients the ability and time to receive their three hours of therapy. Encompass Health rehabilitation hospitals are designed to accommodate this need, so patient's therapy schedule is not interrupted by having to leave the facility to go to an off-site dialysis center.



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931.559.5959 | Fax: 833.992.2327

As the population grows and ages in the Upper Cumberland Region, particularly in Putnam and Cumberland counties, this proposed Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville will certainly open access to more patients who need and will benefit from such advanced and intense rehabilitative services in this part of the state. I highly support and recommend your approval of this state-of-the-art facility. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rohan Kataria". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Rohan Kataria, MD
Board Certified Internal Medicine
Board Certified Nephrology
Office: 931-559-5959
Email: kataria@thekidneycareclinic.com



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March 17, 2026

Logan Grant
Executive Director
Health Facilities Commission
State of Tennessee
502 Deaderick Street, Andrew Jackson Building
9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: Certificate of Need Application for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

I am writing this letter of support on behalf of Cookeville Regional Medical Center Emergency Services. As the Medical Director, Emergency Services, I am responsible for the overall management of our physicians and allied health providers and the oversight of the patient care delivery processes and systems, inclusive of patient safety and clinical protocols. We are the front door for the vast majority of patients admitted to our hospital and it is within our emergency department that we see people who have no other option for care. We are also the front door for patients who return for services and are readmitted for post discharge complications or those who have had complications once discharged home. It is this population of patients that would have greatly benefited from inpatient rehabilitative medical care and therapy to help them achieve much higher physical and cognitive function and readiness before going home. Some of those patients were eligible to be admitted to our inpatient rehabilitation unit, however either the patient did not want to be placed in a semi-private room, or no bed was available at the time they were discharged. This is one of many reasons why it is important to approve the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC's Certificate of Need application for a 40-bed inpatient rehabilitation hospital on our campus.

Over the years, I have seen patients come to the emergency department who are extremely debilitated, having lost their ability to conduct activities of daily living. Even my own mother, before she passed would have been a candidate for this type of rehabilitation care. These patients may have suffered a stroke, have increased episodes of falling, increasing weakness or loss of cognitive functioning. Regardless of what happened prior to them coming to the emergency department, they come to us seeking care and compassion. Once we work with them to determine their course of treatment, the patient often does not meet acute care hospital admission criteria but does meet inpatient rehabilitation admission criteria. Now they are in limbo in the emergency department while we work tirelessly to get them admitted to a facility who can properly care for them. Most patients end up getting admitted to an observation unit until appropriate placement can be arranged.



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As most of these patients are elderly, with limited resources, they want to remain within their community for care. Traveling long distances, particularly into Nashville or Knoxville, is an overwhelming challenge for them. It prevents their loved ones from participating in their rehabilitation due to the distance and traffic congestion they would have to navigate. By allowing the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville to build a new 40-bed inpatient rehabilitation hospital on our campus, we can help minimize or alleviate pain and suffering – physical, emotional, financial for the patient and their family. When patients are not able to get to a rehabilitation hospital bed in a timely manner, because our own inpatient rehab unit is full, they can linger in the emergency department or are admitted to the hospital, causing additional financial strain and prolonged health issues, including further deconditioning, while we coordinate care. With additional inpatient rehabilitation hospital beds available, the patient can be admitted for rehabilitation with a seamless transition for them and their families.

The new proposed inpatient rehabilitation hospital will enable us to be even more efficient with limited resources. By offering the right care, at the right place, and at the right time, we can help patients avoid additional hospital stays and increased healthcare costs. Being able to have these patients quickly transferred to the level of care they need in a rehabilitation hospital also helps our community, freeing up emergency department and hospital inpatient beds for others who need care.

It is for all these reasons, most importantly achieving optimum patient outcomes and satisfaction, that I strongly urge you and the Health Facilities Commission to approve this Certificate of Need request. The citizens of this community and throughout the Upper Cumberland region deserve this service. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Samantha McLerran, MD FAAFP
Board Certified Family Practice and Emergency Medicine
Medical Director, CRMC Emergency Department
Vice Chair Board of Medical Examiners, State of TN

TIER 1 ORTHOPEDICS

James D. McKinney, M.D.
John M. Turnbull, M.D.
Gregory J. Roberts, M.D.
Kenneth Grinspun, M.D.
Derek Worley, M.D.
David Burstedt, M.D.
Shawn Stachler, D.O.

Christopher Juels, D.P.M.
Michael Pahl, M.D.
Heather Taillac, M.D.
Jonathon Srour, D.P.M.
Brian Huff, D.O.
Adrian Viñas, M.D.
Taylor Dennison, M.D.



TIER 1 ORTHOPEDIC AND
NEUROSURGICAL
INSTITUTE
A MEMBER OF THE CAMPBELL CLINIC FAMILY

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TIER 1 NEUROSURGERY

Joseph A. Jestus, M.D.
Walter J. Jermakowicz, M.D.

March 26, 2026

Logan Grant
Executive Director
Health Facilities Commission
State of Tennessee
502 Deaderick Street, Andrew Jackson Building
9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: Certificate of Need Application for The Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

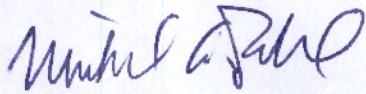
I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Certificate of Need application submitted by the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC to build a new forty (40) bed comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation facility to serve the citizens of Cookeville and the surrounding communities within the Upper Cumberland Region.

I am an orthopedic surgeon practicing in Cookeville and previously in California for over ten years. I am well aware of the need for inpatient rehab rehabilitation as the population is aging and growing in the Upper Cumberland Region. There are numerous associated problems with the aging population such as hip and spine fractures, among many other conditions, which could benefit from rehabilitative treatment of these injuries within a comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation hospital at a local level. The older population generally requires family support after injury or illness. A local rehab rehabilitation hospital on the campus of Cookeville Regional Medical Center would ease the burden of travel for the patient's support system, particularly the family and caregivers who will care for the patient upon his or her return home.

My practice colleagues and I recognize the importance of this level of rehab care for our patients and others within our community and the surrounding areas. I highly recommend your

affirmative support and approval of this proposed Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC.
Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Pahl". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Michael Pahl, MD
Board Certified Orthopedic Surgeon
Fellowship Trained Orthopedic and Sports Medicine



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March 17, 2026

Logan Grant
Executive Director
Health Facilities Commission
State of Tennessee
502 Deaderick Street, Andrew Jackson Building
9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: Certificate of Need Application for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

I am writing this letter to express my support for the approval of the Certificate of Need application submitted by the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC to build a new 40-bed freestanding comprehensive inpatient physical rehabilitation hospital on the campus of Cookeville Regional Medical Center (CRMC). As a board-certified internist, I practice hospital-based medicine at CRMC and manage the care and treatment plan for hundreds of patients per year. Many of those patients are quite medically complex and require a plan of care that is comprehensive from admission through discharge, inclusive of the post-acute care referral process that ensures the patients' need for ongoing medical care is secured with the right provider in the right location.

Many of the more complex patients, such as those with a stroke, brain injury, major trauma, amputees, hip fractures, neurological conditions, and many others with significant comorbidities, are in need of the advanced and intense medical and therapeutic care that is best provided in a comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation hospital. In these settings the patient has the highest likelihood of achieving excellent progress towards physical and cognitive functionality and independence. The interdisciplinary team of physical, occupational, and speech therapists, who provide 3 hours of therapy per day, along with physical medicine and rehabilitation trained physicians (physiatrists) and rehab trained nurses and clinical support staff, work collaboratively to address the individualized needs of every patient.

The patient that perhaps suffered major traumatic orthopedic and neurological injuries; or the active independent senior citizen who perhaps suffered a stroke, a hip fracture, or other medical setback; or the near retirement but still working diabetic who has undergone cardiac surgery after a heart attack; or the elderly patient that lives with her daughter who has been severely weakened and debilitated and recovering from COVID; or the disabled military veteran who underwent a lower extremity amputation; or a whole host of other conditions and scenarios are just a few examples of patients that deserve the care and treatment in a comprehensive inpatient rehab hospital. These patients meet the stringent medical necessity criteria for admission to an inpatient rehab facility

(IRF) and are typically very motivated individuals with good family support systems and the desire to regain their independence and return to the full life they previously enjoyed.

Unfortunately, there are not enough beds in our inpatient rehab unit to serve most of our patients. On occasion, there is a barrier to obtaining this level of care, either because there are no accessible and available private room rehab beds or the unit is full and unable to accept the patient on the day the patient is ready for discharge.

There are many patients I care for with the inability to easily access an available comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation program. It is a shame that more patients who are appropriate candidates for this level of intense therapy can't experience the possibility for better physical and cognitive outcomes in a setting that is reasonably close to home where loved ones can easily participate in therapy and become better prepared for the patient's ultimate discharge home and return to activities of daily living. Skilled nursing facilities are certainly appropriate discharge referrals for many patients, however for IRF-eligible patients that I see daily, the only option available is a suboptimal alternative when comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation is needed for the patient's pursuit to regain his/her physical, cognitive function and independence. As the Chair of the Utilization Management Committee, we recognize how the delay in admission to an IRF setting creates unnecessary increases in the patients' overall length of stay, as well as a delay in getting the patients' rehabilitative therapy initiated when the patient is clinically ready to begin that journey.

As our community grows in the elderly population our hospital gets busier. We are adding additional acute care beds to our facility to prepare for this growth; therefore, it is important that we grow our complement of comprehensive rehab beds simultaneously.

For these reasons, I strongly recommend the approval of this important project to improve access to comprehensive inpatient physical rehabilitation services for our patients. Giving our patients choice and options for a better quality of life as they continue to recover is what they deserve and is so badly needed in our community. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathan Taillac', with a small 'MD' written below the end of the signature.

Nathan Taillac, MD
Board Certified Internal Medicine
Associate Medical Director, Hospital Medicine
Chair, Utilization Management Committee



Whitson-Hester School of Nursing

TENNESSEE TECH

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March 26, 2026

Logan Grant, Executive Director
Health Facilities Commission
State of Tennessee
502 Deaderick Street, Andrew Jackson Building
9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: Certificate of Need Application for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

I am writing today in my capacity as Dean, Whitson-Hester School of Nursing at Tennessee Tech University to express my support for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC' s certificate of need request to build a new forty (40) bed comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation hospital on the campus of Cookeville Regional Medical Center in Putnam County.

The Whitson-Hester School of Nursing is home to a diverse student group consisting of students seeking the nursing degree for their initial career, students entering nursing for career change, current RNs seeking a master's degree in nursing and RNs returning to school for their baccalaureate degree. We provide quality nursing programs as the cornerstone of professional education in a challenging, yet nurturing environment. Students will be prepared to practice evidence-based, culturally sensitive nursing care. The undergraduate student will be prepared to enter the nursing profession with a foundation in scholarship, leadership, service, and life-long learning in a diverse global society.

Our nursing programs have a long standing reputation for graduating quality students that are prepared to professionally perform in their chosen field. We enjoy and appreciate our existing educational relationship with CRMC through the provision of clinical rotations for our nursing students. By providing students with learning experiences in the live clinical setting, inclusive of inpatient rehabilitation, students are exposed to a diverse medical population which enriches their educational knowledge. The proposed expansion of CRMC's existing inpatient rehab program in partnership with Encompass Health will further enhance and support our students' exposure and learning experience in this innovative interdisciplinary and advanced rehab specialty for patients needing this level of care.

For these reasons and many more, I hope you will seriously consider the granting of a Certificate of Need to the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC to build a new, state of the art inpatient rehabilitation hospital in Putnam County. Thank you so much.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kimberly J. Hanna". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Kimberly Hanna, PhD, MSN, RN, CNL
Dean, Whitson-Hester School of Nursing
Tennessee Tech University



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March 24, 2026

Logan Grant
Executive Director
Health Facilities Commission
State of Tennessee
502 Deaderick Street, Andrew Jackson Building
9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: Certificate of Need Application for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

I am pleased and proud to provide this letter of recommendation and support for the building of the proposed new, freestanding comprehensive inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville on the campus of our hospital, Cookeville Regional Medical Center (CRMC). As the CEO of CRMC, I am honored to lead this hospital in its pursuit of ongoing excellence in quality. This includes all services and growth in key specialty areas such as cardiology, neurology, orthopedics, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, and several other specialties so that our family, friends, and community neighbors have access to quality, compassionate care close to home.

Currently in Putnam and surrounding Cumberland, White, Overton, Fentress, and Jackson Counties, there are limited number of inpatient rehabilitation facility (IRF) beds for the provision of acute, comprehensive inpatient rehabilitative hospital care. CRMC has twenty licensed IRF beds in its Rehabilitation Center which is made up of a combination of private and semi-private rooms. Some patients who need and would benefit from the three hours of intensive physical, occupational, and speech therapy and 24/7 specialty rehab nursing and medical care that an inpatient rehabilitation hospital provides, may not be able to access a preferred private room and must then travel to Nashville or Knoxville to an inpatient rehab facility. The distance, difficulty, and time involved in traveling along some of the nation's most congested roadways to reach distant locations prevent many of our patients in need of inpatient rehabilitation services from receiving that level of care. Rather than endure the travel away from their communities, patients and families choose less intensive post-acute care services such as skilled nursing facilities or home health care instead of the physician-prescribed intensive inpatient rehabilitation care. While skilled nursing facilities and home health care are important components of the post-acute care continuum, they are not substitutes for patients who meet medical necessity criteria for the more intensive inpatient rehabilitation facility services.

While we are proud of our existing Rehab Center and its nursing, therapy, and physician staff, the unit has become outdated, undersized, and has limited private rooms. The proposed new, free-standing inpatient rehabilitation hospital will house forty (40) private rooms and baths, a large state-of-the-art therapy gym with associated spaces for occupational and speech therapy, large spaces for family participation and education, dining room, clinical support spaces for pharmacy, dialysis, case management, and many other hospital related spaces. Our partnership with Encompass Health, the nation's leader in inpatient rehabilitation services, brings the latest proprietary advanced technology, post-acute solutions, robust datasets, predictive analytics, and EMR technology to help drive quality and better post-acute management.

Our Board of Trustees (BOT) continuously reviews the current and future state of our organization. It has reviewed and approved this Cookeville Regional Medical Center/Encompass Health joint venture partnership and looks forward to the plans for growth and expansion of comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation services. The BOT has always analyzed the population projections well into the future and has adapted its strategic plans to address the needs of the community. With the Upper Cumberland Region recognized as a "Premier Retirement Destination" the population growth is well documented, and Cookeville is among the nation's fastest growing micropolitan areas in the U.S. In response, CRMC will soon be adding twenty additional acute-care beds to its hospital license preparing for the population growth in our community. Expanding the capacity and upgrading the inpatient rehabilitation hospital serves is not only a smart decision, but also critically important to meet the needs for those patients requiring inpatient rehabilitative care and services now and in the future.

I strongly believe that offering patients comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation hospital care close to home is the right choice for those individuals who need and will benefit from this intensive level of post-acute care. I respectfully request your approval of this particularly important and needed comprehensive inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC. If I can offer any additional information, please feel free to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marilyn C. Key', written in a cursive style.

Marilyn "Buffy" Key
Chief Executive Officer



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March 24, 2026

Logan Grant
Executive Director
Health Facilities Commission
State of Tennessee
502 Deaderick Street, Andrew Jackson Building
9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: Certificate of Need Application for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

I am writing this letter in my capacity as the Director of Nursing and Therapy at the Inpatient Rehabilitation Center at Cookeville Regional Medical Center (CRMC). In this role, I am responsible for nursing and therapy services and work closely with our Medical Director, Dr. Harrison Falwell, to provide an interdisciplinary team approach to caring for our inpatient rehab patients. I would like to express my full support for the Certificate of Need (CON) application to establish a new, free-standing 40-bed Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility/Hospital (IRF) on our CRMC campus in Putnam County. I believe we will be able to expand access to more patients who need and would benefit from intensive rehabilitative care and therapy by building a new state-of-the-art inpatient rehab hospital in our community.

My department includes Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapy Assistants, Certified Occupational Therapy assistants and Speech Language Pathologists providing Acute Inpatient rehabilitation services residents of Putnam County and surrounding areas. Additionally, my department includes rehabilitation nurses, patient care technicians, rehabilitation case managers, rehabilitation liaisons, and a rehabilitation admissions coordinator and a Rehabilitation Administrator. All the clinical disciplines in my department that participate in the care of our patients collaboratively discuss their assessment of the patient's abilities, exercise tolerance, and rehab potential. From a discharge planning perspective, Physical/Occupational Therapy assessments are a critical component of determining whether a patient can tolerate 3 hours of rehabilitation per day and would benefit from IRF level care.



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Our existing unit holds a combination of private and semi-private rooms. The private rooms occupy quickly however the semi-private rooms are much less desirable. Patients prefer a private room and if we are unable to accommodate, they will choose to go elsewhere for IRF care, such as Nashville or Knoxville, or choose a lower level of care such a skilled nursing facility. Expanding and updating our hospital will be a tremendous advantage in providing more advanced and intensive inpatient rehabilitative care to those who need this level of care and prefer to remain close to their home, family, and healthcare providers.

There are several inpatients in the acute-care side of Cookeville Regional Medical Center who qualify for admission into our rehab unit, for whom it is a medical necessity and in the best interest of the patient's recovery to receive 24/7 nursing care, routine physician interaction and intensive therapy like ours provided in our unit, but we do not have enough private beds. Patients with more complex, dense strokes would be typical of the type of patients we would recommend for IRF services and in my experience these patients often do not get comprehensive inpatient rehabilitative care but rather are sent to a skilled nursing unit. It is a well-known fact that the care in a SNF is incomparable to that provided in an inpatient rehabilitation hospital. There is very little therapy, there is not a true interdisciplinary approach, and patients are not typically cared for by physical medicine and rehabilitation physicians and rehab trained nurses and therapists.

Therapists interact a great deal with patients and families as they are trying to plan the most appropriate AND feasible placement for the patients and work with case management to assess the patient and family social circumstances. The therapists are often the ones who begin to introduce the patients to the potential of comprehensive inpatient rehab (CIPR). The most frequent reason that patients/families do not agree to CIPR outside of Cookeville has to do with the distant locations, traffic congestion considerations and the family hardship associated with the daily visits expected to provide the patient with essential emotional support and family teaching.

I believe our new partnership with Encompass Health, the leading provider of comprehensive inpatient physical rehabilitation hospitals in the United States, along with our existing inpatient rehabilitation staff of experienced and dedicated therapists and nurses, will provide excellent service to our community and the Region in a new, expanded, and state of the art free-standing hospital. This will allow more patients to receive needed CIPR care without the barrier of family hardship in traveling to distant



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locations. I also understand that Encompass's resources, access to advanced education and training, and a rehab specific electronic medical record will be a welcome addition for our team. In addition, clinical liaisons will work closely with our case managers and physicians, providing education to better understand and appropriately refer patients in need of inpatient rehabilitative care and services.

As a passionate advocate for trained rehab nurses, doctors, physical, occupational and speech therapists in the right setting with the right resources, I highly encourage and support your approval of the Certificate of Need for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Warren M. Johnson, RN
Director of Nursing and Therapy
CRMC Inpatient Rehabilitation Center



March 24, 2026

Logan Grant
Executive Director
Health Facilities Commission
State of Tennessee
502 Deaderick Street, Andrew Jackson Building
9th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

Re: Certificate of Need Application for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC

Dear Mr. Grant:

I am writing to express my support for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville, LLC's Certificate of Need application to build a new, free-standing forty (40) bed comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation hospital in Cookeville, TN. We currently have limited post-acute healthcare rehabilitation beds in our existing inpatient rehab center here on our campus at Cookeville Regional Medical Center (CRMC). Our patients who need and would benefit from this advanced level of rehabilitative care most often choose to remain in our campus based rehab center however private rooms are limited which is their overwhelming preference. As a result, they must either leave their home community to receive such services in either Knoxville or Nashville, or accept an alternative, less intensive level of care such as a skilled nursing facility (SNF) close to home.

One of my responsibilities as the Director of Case Management at CRMC, here in Putnam County, is to oversee discharge planning of our acute-care hospital patients to assure all our patients receive a safe and appropriate plan of care once they are ready to move to the next phase in their healthcare journey. I have been working in case management for over 25 years and am well aware of the challenges to place patients in the right setting at the right time. At our hospital we have patients that need and would benefit from acute comprehensive inpatient physical rehabilitation hospital services after having suffered a stroke, neurological injury, hip fracture, or many other conditions that qualify for inpatient rehabilitation hospital level care.

As a registered nurse and case manager dedicated to providing our patients and their families with the absolute best choices for their ongoing rehabilitative therapy and recovery, the options available to them are limited. For example, at Cookeville Regional Medical Center, which has been serving Putnam and the surrounding counties for several decades, there are very few inpatient rehabilitation facilities in our six-county service area. If CRMC's Rehab Center doesn't have any available rehab beds (because there are no private rooms), the patient and their family are far less likely to choose their physician recommended inpatient rehab facility in Knoxville or Nashville, which is greater than thirty miles away, a drive that routinely takes an hour or more through treacherous highways and roadways. Due to the distance and complexities of travel, the family and or care giver at home is unable or unwilling to commit the time and dedication necessary to participate in the patients' physical and occupational therapy while in a distant inpatient rehabilitation hospital. The time the family or care giver participates in therapy and education is crucial to the patients' overall recovery and mental support during and after their rehabilitation hospital stay.

These three primary factors: 1) lack of sufficient private rooms, 2) the long distance into the Knoxville or Nashville area and, 3) the families' inability to participate in the patients' recovery and preparedness for functioning at the highest level when they get home, result in the patient choosing to stay close to home, often in a skilled nursing facility or just going home with home-health services. None of these choices would be ideal for the patient who meets the medical necessity criteria for admission to a comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation hospital such as our existing CRMC Rehabilitation Center; is motivated and able to tolerate the intensity of daily physical, occupational, and speech therapy for three hours; and wants to achieve the highest level of physical function and cognition.

This proposed CON project to build the Rehabilitation Hospital of Cookeville on our campus is extremely important for the patients we care for at Cookeville Regional Medical Center. The Cookeville community is tightly knit and those who live there want to stay there for all their healthcare needs, including the advanced therapy and medical care provided in a comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation hospital such as that proposed by CRMC and Encompass Health. I urge the commission to approve this critically important addition to the healthcare service landscape in Cookeville, TN. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,



Jennifer Daugherty, RN, BSN
Director, Care Management