



STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

525 WEST JEFFERSON ST, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62761 • (217) 782-3516 FAX: (217) 785-4111

PROJECT PUBLIC HEARING REPORT

Exemption #E-021-24 – Ascension Saint Francis

September 12, 2024

On September 6, 2024, the State Board Staff (Blanca Dominguez, George Roate, and Shari Ryan) conducted a public hearing on the sale of Ascension Saint Francis to Prime Healthcare Services, Inc. (#Exemption #E-021-24).

The hearing was held at the Evanston Public Library, Community Meeting 201 East Merchant Street, Kankakee, Illinois, from 1:00 to 1:15 pm.

Individuals who registered their attendance at the hearing:

Support: 7
Oppose: 0
Neutral: 1

Individuals who registered to speak at the hearing: 3

Support: 3
Oppose: 0

Total individuals registered: 8

Number of Letters received: 2

Support: 2
Oppose: 0

Site: Evanston Public Library
Community Mtg Room 107
Address: 1703 Orrington Ave
Evanston, IL 60201

NAME: Ascension St. Francis

Time: 1:00 PM

[illegible]



STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Participation Form

Facility or Project Name: **Ascension Saint Francis**

Project Number: **#E-021-24**

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) POLLY DAUENPORT

City Chicago State IL Zip 60606

Contact Phone Number

312-308-1545

Contact E-Mail Address

polly.dauenport@ascension.org

II. REPRESENTATION

(This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of any group, organization or other entity.)

Entity, Organization, etc. represented in this appearance (i.e., ABC Concerned Citizens for Health Care)

Ascension

III. POSITION (Circle appropriate position)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

NEUTRAL

This form must be returned to John Kniery at john.kniery@illinois.gov or 217-785-4111 (fax) or 525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor; Springfield, Illinois 62761 at least 24 hours prior to the HFSRB meeting.

Please note that anyone who does not pre-register in accordance with the HFSRB Public Participation Guidelines will not have an opportunity to speak at a Board meeting.

Seller



Ascension

Hello.

My name is Polly Davenport and I serve as chief executive officer for Ascension Illinois.

I would like to first start by ~~thanking~~ the Illinois Health Facilities Services and Review Board for the opportunity to speak to you on behalf of our Ascension Illinois hospitals.

I'm happy to be here to share with you how we came to the decision to transfer ownership of nine of our 14 hospitals to Prime Healthcare. In order to ensure our Mission of serving those most vulnerable continues to flourish, we continually explore new options to best serve our communities as we adapt to the rapidly changing healthcare environment.

After thorough due diligence, a values compatibility assessment and an ethics discernment process, Ascension selected Prime Healthcare as the best steward of these facilities for the future. Prime Healthcare is well-positioned to serve our communities through an integrated care delivery system to ensure that the greater Chicago area has sustainable, quality healthcare access for generations to come.

NUMBER: 2

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Participation Form

Facility or Project Name: **Ascension Saint Francis**

Project Number: **#E-021-24**

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) Fred Ortega

City Ontario State CA Zip 91761

Contact Phone Number

626-516-5506

Contact E-Mail Address

~~Fred Ortega~~@Fortege@primehealthcare.com

II. REPRESENTATION

(This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of any group, organization or other entity.)

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Prime Healthcare

III. POSITION (Circle appropriate position)

SUPPORT

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Buyer

Fred Ortega

Prime Healthcare Foundation Introductory Remarks

Sept. 12, 2024

Ascension St. Francis - Evanston

The Prime Healthcare Foundation considers it an honor and tremendous responsibility to have been selected by Ascension Health as the steward of Ascension St. Francis in Evanston, its employees and patients, and its legacy of service to the community.

The Prime Healthcare Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public charity dedicated to quality, compassionate healthcare for all. With 14 hospitals in six states, the Foundation has more than \$1.3 billion in assets and has provided more than \$3 billion in charity care, sponsoring local and global initiatives to forward its mission of improving the lives of others. Most recently, the Foundation founded one of the nation's newest medical schools, California University of Science and Medicine (CUSM), dedicated to addressing our nation's physician shortage, healthcare disparities, and advancing medicine in underserved communities.

Prime Healthcare Foundation is affiliated with Prime Healthcare, an integrated delivery system including 44 hospitals in 14 states, more than 300 outpatient locations, and nearly 45,000 employees and physicians. We are excited to welcome the Ascension facilities into our Prime family, and we strongly believe we are uniquely positioned to serve these hospitals and their communities to ensure that the greater Chicago area continues to have sustainable, quality healthcare access far into the future. We have done this for communities across the nation, and are confident we can deliver for the residents of Chicagoland and beyond.

It is Prime Healthcare's unwavering dedication to providing compassionate, quality care, building value, preserving access and improving health outcomes that allows us to consistently be nationally ranked among the best hospital systems in the nation. Eight of the Prime Healthcare Foundation hospitals received "A" Grades from the Leapfrog Group in 2024. The 14 Prime Healthcare Foundation hospitals have been recognized with more than 50 achievements for clinical excellence in the past year alone from organizations such as Becker's Healthcare and Healthgrades. And most of the Prime Healthcare Foundation hospitals have been recognized by the Lown Institute, with A grades in various areas including Health Equity, Social Responsibility, Patient and Clinical Outcomes, and Inclusivity.

Prime Healthcare is not only bringing this commitment to quality and health equity to the Ascension Illinois facilities. We have also committed to investing \$250 million dollars in the Ascension facilities to fund capital improvements, including substantial technology investments and system upgrades, as well as hiring all of the acquired facilities' workforce, subject to Prime's standard hiring practices, policies, and titles.

The Prime Healthcare Foundation has also committed to continuing all services at St. Francis, pending our internal review, and hope to expand services based on community needs. We have also committed to maintaining levels of charity care and continuing existing charity care and community benefit programs, preserving these facilities' roles as valued community partners. This is not an exceptional commitment; it is what we do for all the communities we serve.

Since 2001, Prime Healthcare and the Prime Healthcare Foundation has also rescued various Catholic hospitals, respecting the traditions of these historic facilities while promoting the spiritual care and well being of all members of the community, including the most vulnerable on the margins of society. We pledge to do this for the Ascension facilities as well.

I want to close with the words of our founder: "If you can see the potential for good, feel the impact of kindness on others, touch the spirit of a generous cause just a bit every day, then you have embarked on a noble path." This perfectly encapsulates the dedication to compassionate care and social responsibility at the heart of the Prime Healthcare Foundation's. We look forward to sharing that dedication to caring and improving our communities with all the patients who depend on these hospitals and facilities for generations to come. Thank you.

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NUMBER: Closer

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Participation Form

Facility or Project Name: Ascension Saint Francis

Project Number: #E-021-24

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) KENDALL JOHNSON

City EVANSTON State IL Zip 60201

Contact Phone Number

620-899-7879

Contact E-Mail Address

KENDALL.JOHNSON@ASCENSION.ORG

II. REPRESENTATION

(This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of any group, organization or other entity.)

Entity, Organization, etc. represented in this appearance (i.e., ABC Concerned Citizens for Health Care)

ASCENSION ST. FRANCIS

III. POSITION (Circle appropriate position)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

NEUTRAL

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Kendall Johnson



Ascension

Closing Comment

We thank the Board for providing us the opportunity to hear from our community today during this public hearing and look forward to appearing before the Board. Their support of this transfer of ownership preserves jobs and ensures needed healthcare access across Chicagoland, as well as investment in Illinois for the future.

Thank you.