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Transcript of Public Hearing

Date: February 17, 2022

Case: State of Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD
BEFORE HEARING OFFICER APRIL SIMMONS

-----x
IN RE: :
Public Comments Regarding :
Application for Change in :
Ownership Exemptions for :
AMITA Health. :
-----x

PUBLIC HEARING in accordance with requirements
of the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act
Conducted Virtually
Thursday, February 17, 2022
11:01 a.m.

Job No.: 431688
Pages: 1 - 18
Reported by: Paula Quetsch, CSR, RPR

1 PUBLIC HEARING held virtually:
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9 Before Paula Quetsch, a Certified Shorthand
10 Reporter, Registered Professional Reporter, and a
11 Notary Public in and for the State of Illinois.
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1 PRESENT:

2 ILLINOIS HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES

3 REVIEW BOARD, by

4 APRIL SIMMONS, Public Hearing Officer

5 GEORGE ROATE, CON Reviewer

6 MICHAEL CONSTANTINO, IDPH Staff

7 MICHAEL MITCHELL, IDPH Staff

8 ANN GUILD, Compliance Manager

9 525 West Jefferson Street

10 Second Floor

11 Springfield, Illinois 62761

12 (217) 782-3516

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MS. SIMMONS: Good morning. My name is
3 April Simmons, and I am the general counsel for
4 the Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review
5 Board. This morning I will also be acting as the
6 hearing officer for today's proceeding. Present
7 with me today also representing the Board are
8 Mike Constantino, George Roate, and Mike Mitchell,
9 as well as Ann Guild.

10 On behalf of the State Board, thank you
11 for attending this public hearing for the multiple
12 AMITA Health exemption applications regarding a
13 change of ownership.

14 As part of the rules of the Illinois
15 Health Facilities & Services Review Board, I would
16 like to read the previously published legal notice
17 into the record.

18 "Legal Notice of Public Hearing and
19 Opportunity for Written Comment:

20 "In accordance with the requirements of
21 the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act and
22 77 Illinois Administrative Code Part 1130, notice
23 is given of a public hearing on an exemption for a
24 change of ownership on the following AMITA Health

1 Care facilities:

2 "E-002-22, Presence Mercy Medical Center,
3 Aurora;

4 "E-003-22, Presence St. Mary's Hospital,
5 Kankakee;

6 "E-004-22, Presence Saint Joseph Medical
7 Center, Joliet;

8 "E-005-22, Presence St. Joseph Hospital,
9 Elgin;

10 "E-006-22, Presence Resurrection Medical
11 Center, Chicago;

12 "SE-007-22, Presence Saint Elizabeth
13 Hospital, Chicago;

14 "E-008-22, Presence Saint Joseph
15 Hospital-Chicago;

16 "E-009-22, Presence Holy Family Medical
17 Center, Des Plaines;

18 "E-010-22, Presence Saint Mary of Nazareth
19 Hospital, Chicago;

20 "E-011-22, Presence Saint Francis Hospital,
21 Evanston;

22 "E-012-22, Alexian Brothers Behavioral
23 Health Hospital, Hoffman Estates;

24 "E-013-22, Alexian Brothers Medical Center,

1 Elk Grove Village;

2 "E-014-22, St. Alexius Medical Center,

3 Hoffman Estates;

4 "E-015-22, Adventist GlenOaks Hospital,

5 Glendale Heights;

6 "E-016-22, Adventist LaGrange Memorial

7 Hospital, LaGrange;

8 "E-017-22, Adventist Hinsdale Hospital in

9 Hinsdale;

10 "E-018-22, Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital

11 in Bolingbrook;

12 "E-019-22, Hoffman Estates Surgery Center,

13 LLC, Hoffman Estates;

14 "E-020-22, Belmont/Harlem Surgery Center,

15 Chicago;

16 "E-021-22, AMITA Health Endoscopy Center,

17 Chicago;

18 "E-022-22, Des Plaines Endoscopy Center,

19 Des Plaines.

20 "These exemption applications were deemed
21 substantively complete on January 6, 2022. These
22 applications are tentatively scheduled to be heard
23 at the March 15th, 2022, State Board meeting.

24 Written public comments on these exemptions will

1 be accepted by the State Board no later than
2 February 23rd, 2022.

3 "Information regarding this hearing or any
4 other activity of the Illinois Health Facilities &
5 Services Review Board can be obtained at the State
6 Board's website."

7 As previously stated, this public hearing
8 is conducted by the staff of the Illinois Health
9 Facilities & Services Review Board pursuant to the
10 Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act. This
11 hearing is open to the public and affords an
12 opportunity for parties with interest in these
13 projects to present written and/or verbal comment
14 relevant to the projects. All allegations or
15 assertions should be relevant to the need for the
16 proposed project and be supported with two copies
17 of documentation or materials on printed or typed
18 paper.

19 Please note that in order to ensure that
20 the Health Facilities & Services Review Board's
21 public hearings protect the privacy and maintain
22 the confidentiality of an individual's health
23 information, covered entities as defined by the
24 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability

1 Act of 1996 such as hospital providers, health
2 plans, and healthcare clearinghouses submitting
3 oral or written testimony that discloses protected
4 health information of individuals shall have a
5 valid written authorization from that individual.
6 The authorization shall allow the covered entity
7 to share the individual's protected health
8 information at this hearing.

9 Prior to beginning your remarks, please
10 clearly state and spell your first and last name.
11 The applicant shall be afforded an opportunity to
12 provide a summary of their request. Today's
13 proceedings will begin with a representative from
14 AMITA, Ms. Gray.

15 MS. GARY: Yes, hello. Can you see me and
16 hear me?

17 MS. SIMMONS: Yes, we can. I'm sorry,
18 Ms. Gary.

19 MS. GARY: No problem. Good morning. My
20 name is Cristal Gary, C-r-i-s-t-a-l G-a-r-y. I
21 hold the title of Chief Advocacy Officer with
22 Alexian Brothers-AHS Midwest Health which operates
23 under the name of AMITA Health. I would like to
24 start by providing a bit of background for context

1 for the COEs being discussed in today's hearing.

2 In 2015 Advent Health Systems Sunbelt
3 Healthcare Corporation which controlled four
4 hospitals in Illinois and Ascension Health which
5 controlled three hospitals in Illinois entered
6 into an affiliation agreement and established a
7 joint operating company to oversee the management
8 of their respective hospitals' operations
9 consistent with the Ascension and Advent Health
10 religious identities. That joint operating
11 company is AMITA Health.

12 Subsequently, in 2018 Ascension Health
13 assumed ownership and control of the hospitals'
14 long-term facilities and ambulatory surgery
15 centers that were owned and controlled by Presence
16 Health Network. As part of that transaction, the
17 Presence hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers
18 also became part of the network of healthcare
19 facilities managed by AMITA Health. Today there
20 are a total of 21 IDPH-licensed facilities whose
21 operations are managed under AMITA Health. There
22 are 17 hospitals, the formerly Alexian Brothers
23 Advent Health and Presence facilities, as well as
24 four ambulatory surgery centers.

1 After seven years of working together,
2 Ascension Health and Advent Health have made the
3 mutual decision to terminate their affiliation
4 agreement. This disaffiliation involves the
5 unwinding of AMITA Health's delegated management
6 of the facilities' operations. However, because
7 the ownership of the hospitals' and ambulatory
8 surgery centers' assets were not transferred as
9 part of the AMITA Health formation, this
10 disaffiliation would not involve any change or
11 transfer of the ownership of any assets, including
12 physical assets such as the buildings and
13 equipment. In addition, the individual licenses
14 were retained by the hospital and ambulatory
15 surgery center entities themselves and as such
16 would not be changing as a result of the proposed
17 transaction.

18 In today's rapidly changing healthcare
19 delivery environment, it is important to be able
20 to nimbly adapt and evolve facility operations and
21 strategies to meet the needs and expectations of
22 healthcare consumers. We are confident that
23 Ascension Health and Advent Health will be able to
24 do this more effectively as independent systems as

1 opposed to the current joint management structure.

2 Ascension Health and Advent Health both
3 continue to have a strong commitment to the
4 Illinois markets they are serving and to ensuring
5 that patients continue to have access to high-
6 quality healthcare services in their communities.

7 Thank you for your attention this morning.
8 That concludes my remarks.

9 MS. SIMMONS: Thank you. At this time I'm
10 going to ask if there's any additional individuals
11 that wish to speak. I think everyone -- there's
12 no callers, so please indicate by raising your
13 hand if you wish to speak at this time.

14 (No response.)

15 MS. SIMMONS: This hearing is scheduled for
16 an hour. I will return within the next five minutes
17 to see if there's anyone at that time that wishes
18 to speak. Thank you.

19 (Recess taken, 11:12 a.m. to 11:19 a.m.)

20 MS. SIMMONS: Good morning, this is the
21 public hearing for the exemption applications for
22 AMITA, and if there is anyone that wishes to speak
23 at this time, please indicate by raising your hand.

24 (No response.)

Transcript of Public Hearing
Conducted on February 17, 2022

1 MS. SIMMONS: Seeing none, this public
2 hearing is scheduled for a period an hour. I will
3 return in a few minutes to see if there's anyone
4 that wishes to speak at that time.

5 (Recess taken, 11:19 a.m. to 11:24 a.m.)

6 MS. SIMMONS: This is the public hearing
7 for multiple AMITA Health exemption applications.
8 If you wish to speak at this time, please indicate
9 by raising your hand.

10 (No response.)

11 MS. SIMMONS: Seeing none, at this time
12 this public hearing is scheduled for an hour. I
13 will return shortly to see if there's anyone that
14 wishes to speak at that time.

15 (Recess taken, 11:24 a.m. to 11:32 a.m.)

16 MS. SIMMONS: This is the public hearing
17 for multiple AMITA Health exemption applications.
18 If you wish to speak at this time, please indicate
19 by raising your hand.

20 (No response.)

21 (Recess taken, 11:33 a.m. to 11:38 a.m.)

22 MS. SIMMONS: This is the public hearing
23 for multiple AMITA Health exemption applications.
24 If you wish to speak at this time, please indicate

1 by raising your hand.

2 (No response.)

3 (Recess taken, 11:38 a.m. to 11:42 a.m.)

4 MS. SIMMONS: This is the public hearing
5 for multiple AMITA Health exemption applications.
6 If you wish to speak at this time, please indicate
7 by raising your hand.

8 (No response.)

9 (Recess taken, 11:43 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.)

10 MS. SIMMONS: This is the public hearing
11 for multiple AMITA Health exemption applications.
12 Is there anyone that wishes to speak at this time?
13 Please indicate by raising your hand.

14 (No response.)

15 MS. SIMMONS: Seeing none, Joe, would you
16 like for your last speaker to go at this time?

17 MR. OURTH: Yes. Julie Roknich is prepared
18 to make a closing statement.

19 MS. SIMMONS: Okay. Thank you.

20 Julie, I believe you have been made a
21 panelist. You can proceed.

22 MS. ROKNICH: Thank you very much.
23 Unfortunately, it looks like my video is not going
24 to cooperate with me. Is it okay if I continue

1 verbally only?

2 MS. SIMMONS: Yes, that's fine.

3 MS. ROKNICH: Wonderful, thanks.

4 So my name is Julie Roknich, J-u-l-i-e,
5 last name R-o-k-n-i-c-h. I am the vice president
6 and senior associate general counsel for AMITA
7 Health.

8 AMITA Health is steadfast in its belief
9 that Ascension and Advent's improved ability to
10 deliver the day-to-day operations of their
11 facilities to meet the needs of our changing
12 healthcare delivery environment while at the same
13 time maintaining a strong commitment to the
14 principles of our sponsoring organizations will
15 result in a benefit to the residents of the
16 greater Chicago area that we are privileged to
17 serve. Those commitments to our principles and to
18 the community will not change with the proposed
19 disaffiliation projects.

20 In closing and on behalf of AMITA Health,
21 I would like to thank the Health Facilities &
22 Services Review Board staff for your assistance in
23 the development of the applications that we have
24 filed and for the coordination of the public

1 hearing today.

2 Thank you. That's the end of my remarks.

3 MS. SIMMONS: Thank you, Julie.

4 Is there anyone else that wishes to speak
5 at this time?

6 (No response.)

7 (Recess taken, 11:53 a.m. to 11:57 a.m.)

8 MS. SIMMONS: Is there anyone who wishes
9 to testify who has not had the opportunity to
10 testify? At this time if you can please indicate
11 by raising your hand.

12 (No response.)

13 MS. SIMMONS: There are no call-in users.
14 If you can please indicate by raising your hand.

15 (No response.)

16 MS. SIMMONS: Mitch, can you confirm for
17 me that there's no additional hands raised?

18 MR. MITCHELL: I see no hands.

19 MS. SIMMONS: Thank you.

20 Paula, if you can let the record reflect
21 that the time is currently 11:57. There has been
22 no new attendees that have entered this public
23 hearing for the past 30 minutes. I have asked if
24 there are -- if there's anyone that wishes to

1 testify at this time, and no hands have been raised.

2 Please note that this project is scheduled
3 for consideration by the Board at its March 15th,
4 2022, meeting. The Board -- it's tentatively
5 scheduled for the Board meeting at its March 15,
6 2022 meeting. The State Board meeting will be
7 held virtually beginning at 9:00 a.m. Please
8 refer to the State Board's website for the link to
9 the State Board meeting.

10 The public has until February 23rd, 2022, to
11 submit signed written comments pertaining to this
12 project. Comments should be sent to the attention
13 of the Illinois Health Facilities & Services
14 Review Board, 525 West Jefferson Street, Second
15 Floor, and that's in Springfield, Illinois 62761.

16 The State Board will post its findings in
17 the State Board staff report, and this report will
18 be made available on Tuesday, March 1st, 2022.

19 The public may submit written responses to any
20 errors in the findings of the Board staff of the
21 Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review
22 Board, and the public will have until 9:00 a.m. on
23 Monday, March 7, 2022, to submit any written
24 responses to the content of the report findings.

1 That report, as well as all additional information
2 regarding these applications, can be accessed on
3 the Board's website.

4 Are there any questions at this time?

5 (No response.)

6 MS. SIMMONS: Seeing no hands raised, I
7 deem this public hearing adjourned. Thank you for
8 your participation in today's proceedings.

9 (Off the record at 12:00 p.m. CST)

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CERTIFICATE OF SHORTHAND REPORTER

I, Paula M. Quetsch, Certified Shorthand Reporter No. 084-003733, CSR, RPR, and a Notary Public in and for the County of Kane, State of Illinois, the officer before whom the foregoing proceedings were taken, do certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and correct record of the proceedings, that said proceedings were taken by me stenographically and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my supervision, and that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this case and have no interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my notarial seal this 20th day of February, 2022.

My commission expires: October 16, 2025



Notary Public in and for the
State of Illinois