

Mercy Hospital & Medical Center Discontinuation Project No. 20-039 Public Hearing: 10/28/2020

Jameika Sampson, Director of Community Health and Wellbeing, Mercy Hospital & Medical Center

My name is Jameika Sampson and I am the Director of Community Health and Wellbeing at Mercy Hospital & Medical Center.

In my role, I have been responsible for the development of the hospital's holistic community health improvement strategies with a particular focus on health equity policies. I have worked closely with all the safety net hospitals in the area to strengthen our coordinated network of care for the vulnerable populations we serve. As we faced an ongoing series of challenges, our hospital joined the South Side Transformation Plan and it was my job to inform community members, civic leaders and residents across the area about the potential of this transformation to strengthen their access to care.

We launched a robust community outreach effort that included one-on-one meetings, an online presence that gathered input from residents in the area, and virtual townhalls. Across each of these platforms we regularly met with a receptive audience of more than 700 community leaders and residents. They are all anxious for greater access to the preventive care they need and lack today, and were supportive of a plan that would transform a system clearly in need of repair.

While our plan was not approved by the state, I'd like to express the deep desire for change I heard across thousands of stakeholders I've engaged during my time at Mercy.

I urge you to support Mercy's application to lead the transformation of care South Side patients deserve.