



Vicar for Health Affairs
6537 N. Ashland Avenue – 1N
Chicago IL 60626

Reverend William P. Grogan
Vicar for Health Affairs

November 23, 2020

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Mercy Hospital

Dear Ms. Avery:

I have had the honor of working with the Archdiocese of Chicago as the Cardinal's Vicar for Health Care for the past several years. I'm writing today to offer the support of the Chicago Archdiocese for Mercy Hospital's plan to transform its model of care to better meet the needs of the community.

Like many in Chicago, the Cardinal, along with local parishioners, clergy and lay staff, are deeply disappointed by the State's refusal to fund this area's health services especially during this pandemic, a sad decision that is responsible for the closing of Mercy Hospital.

True to its vocation, Trinity Health will now transform and advance its religious identity through health care as we heard from last Sunday's Gospel at Mass:

"When I was sick you cared for Me."

Whether in the clinic or at a patient's bedside, our efforts are tied to our prayers - through serving and affirming the dignity of the sick, weak and vulnerable we serve Him whom we worship. This blending of worship, witness and welfare defines the uniqueness of Catholic healthcare in Chicago. It is a vision that serves as the daily inspiration for those who serve in our Church's sponsored efforts here and in the other over 150 hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, homecare, hospice, medical, nursing and health care schools and training programs in the Chicago area.

Consistent with its mission to serve in the spirit of the Gospel as a compassionate and healing presence within its community, Mercy has been working toward a transformation to outpatient care as it sees the unmet needs of the community and disparate outcomes in health our current system produces.

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Through this outpatient clinic, Trinity Health will be able to continue its commitment to Catholic care and increase access to the kind of care the community truly needs. This neighborhood clinic will offer preventive care, diagnostic care like X-RAY and MRI and hopes to have more services than many Chicago outpatient clinics.

Cardinal Cupich was pleased to learn from Trinity Health's CEO Michael Slubowski through his Senior Vice President for Mission, Sister of Mercy Mary Ann Dillon, RSM, that this proposed Catholic clinic will open ten months from now.

While the Catholic Church in Chicago regrets the closing of Mercy Hospital, it takes pride in supporting Trinity Health's commitment to build upon over a century and a half of devoted, compassionate Catholic sponsored care for all – especially the poor – started by the Sisters of Mercy.

Yours sincerely,

William P. Grogan

Rev. William P. Grogan
Vicar for Health Care

WPG:lwh



November 30, 2020

Illinois Department of Public Health
525 West Jefferson St.
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Emergency Preparedness Response Report

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to 77 Illinois Administrative Code 1130.240 Section f) 4) – “Changes in a Health Care Facility’s Bed Capacity; Emergency Prepared Response Report” we are sending you notification of bed changes due to increased COVID-19 inpatient bed needs. Ottawa Regional Hospital & Healthcare Center, d/b/a OSF Saint Elizabeth Medical Center in Ottawa, Illinois made the following bed changes effective 11/23/20:

- OSF HealthCare Saint Elizabeth Medical Center converted 9 beds on our 3-East behavioral health unit to non-COVID-19 medical/surgical beds. (see attached floor plan)
- As of 11/23, there were no behavioral health patients on this unit.
- A detailed description of conditions necessitating the bed capacity increase: OSF Saint Elizabeth has experienced increased admissions and increased admissions of patients with COVID-19 necessitating additional need for medical/surgical beds.
- The impact on normal admission activity: This will provide additional space for non-COVID-19 related admissions on this unit and will allow OSF Saint Elizabeth to keep patients with COVID-19 in a distinct area.
- The anticipated length of time the increase is needed: The beds will remain as non-COVID-19 medical/surgical beds until normal capacity resumes.
- Indication of the prospective date when beds will be taken out of circulation: Unknown at this time.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (815) 431-5456 or via email at dawn.c.trompeter@osfhealthcare.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dawn Trompeter".

Dawn Trompeter, President
OSF HealthCare Saint Elizabeth Medical Center

cc: Health Facilities and Service Review Board, Attention Mike Constantino
Health Facilities and Service Review Board, Attention Courtney Avery
Carol Friesen
Mike Cruz, M.D.
Mark Hohulin

