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# Transcript of Public Hearing

**Date:** February 3, 2020

**Case:** #E-005-20 - Pipeline West Suburban Medical Center, Oak Park, IL

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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD  
BEFORE HEARING OFFICER ANN GUILD

IN RE: :  
PIPELINE WEST SUBURBAN :  
MEDICAL CENTER, : Project No.  
OAK PARK. : E-005-20

HEARING in accordance with requirements of the  
Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act

Oak Park Public Library  
834 Lake Street  
Oak Park, Illinois 60301  
Monday, February 3, 2020  
10:58 a.m.

Job No. 286030

Pages: 1 - 15

Transcribed By: Lee Ann Nussbaum, CET

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1 PRESENT:

2 ILLINOIS HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES

3 REVIEW BOARD, by

4 RUKHAYA ALIKHAN, General Counsel

5 COURTNEY AVERY, Administrator

6 Second Floor

7 525 West Jefferson Street

8 Springfield, Illinois 62761

9 (217) 782-3516

10  
11 ALSO PRESENT:

12 Matthew Lenner

13  
14 SPEAKERS:

15 Joseph Otttolino

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

2 HEARING OFFICER ALIKHAN: Good morning.  
3 Thank you for participating in today's public  
4 hearing for Pipeline West Suburban Medical Center  
5 in Oak Park.

6 I am Rukhaya Alikhan, general counsel  
7 and hearing officer for the Illinois Health  
8 Facilities and Services Review Board. Present  
9 with me today is Courtney Avery, the Board's  
10 Administrator. On behalf of the Board, thank you  
11 for attending.

12 As per the rules of the Illinois Health  
13 Planning Act, the previously published legal  
14 notice, Notice of Review and Opportunity for  
15 Public Hearing and Written Comment, and Public  
16 Hearing and Opportunity for Written Comment have  
17 been submitted to the court reporter and will be  
18 included in today's record. I will now read the  
19 legal notice.

20 ---

21 NOTICE OF REVIEW AND

22 PUBLIC HEARING AND WRITTEN COMMENT

23 In accordance with the requirements of  
24 the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act,

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1 Notice is given of the receipt of Change of  
2 Ownership Application (#E-005-20 - Pipeline West  
3 Suburban Medical Center, located at 3 Erie Court,  
4 Oak Park, Illinois). The Applicants (Pipeline  
5 Health System, LLC, Pipeline West Suburban Medical  
6 Center, LLC, and SRC Hospital Investments, LLC)  
7 propose a corporate restructuring of Pipeline West  
8 Suburban Medical Center, a licensed 234-bed acute  
9 care hospital. The transaction will result in  
10 Pipeline Health System, LLC having ultimate  
11 control of a licensed health care facility. The  
12 owner of the property is West Suburban Property  
13 Holdings, LLC. The transaction is expected to  
14 close by March 31, 2020.

15 This public hearing is to be held by the  
16 Illinois Health Facility Services and Review Board  
17 pursuant to the Planning Act. The hearing is open  
18 to the public and will afford an opportunity for  
19 parties at interest to present written and/or  
20 verbal comment relevant to the project.

21 All allegations or assertions should be  
22 relevant to the need for the proposed project and  
23 be supported with two copies of documentation or  
24 materials that are preferably printed or typed on

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1 paper, page size 8 1/2 by 11 inches.

2 The public hearing is held today,  
3 Monday, February 3rd, 2010, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
4 at the Oak Park Library in the Veterans Meeting  
5 Room, 834 Lake Street, Oak Park, Illinois.

6 The Application was deemed complete on  
7 January 15, 2020. The proposed Change of  
8 Ownership Application is tentatively scheduled for  
9 the February 25, 2020 State Board meeting to be  
10 held at the Bolingbrook Golf Club, 2001 Rodeo  
11 Drive, Bolingbrook, Illinois, beginning at 9:00  
12 a.m. Any person wanting to submit written  
13 comments on this project must submit these  
14 comments by February 5, 2020.

15 The State Board will post its findings  
16 in a State Board staff report, and the report will  
17 be made available via the internet on February 11,  
18 2020. The public may submit written responses in  
19 support of or in opposition to the findings of the  
20 Review Board's report. The public will have until  
21 9:00 a.m. February 18, 2020 to submit written  
22 responses.

23 Please note, that in order to ensure the  
24 Health Facilities and Services Review Board's

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1 public hearings protect the privacy and maintain  
2 the confidentiality of an individual's health  
3 information and covered entities as defined by the  
4 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability  
5 Act of 1996, such as hospital providers, health  
6 plans, health care clearing houses, submitting  
7 oral or written testimony that disclose protected  
8 health information of individuals must have a  
9 valid written authorization or consent form from  
10 that individual. That authorization shall allow  
11 the covered entity to share the individual's  
12 protected health information at this hearing.

13 If you have not signed in, please see  
14 Ms. Avery.

15 Those of you who have prepared text of  
16 your testimony, please note that you may submit  
17 the written text, which will be entered into  
18 today's record and made available for all Board  
19 members prior to the February 25th board meeting.

20 I ask that you please limit your  
21 testimony to three minutes. Participants will be  
22 called in numerical order, as assigned on your  
23 sign-in sheets.

24 As you approach the speaker's podium,

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1 which is in the front of the room right in front  
2 of my table here, please provide me with your  
3 sign-in sheet.

4 Prior to beginning remarks clearly state  
5 and spell your full name for the court reporter.  
6 If you have written copies of your remarks, please  
7 provide those to me.

8 Are there any questions regarding these  
9 instructions?

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible).

11 HEARING OFFICER ALIKHAN: It should be  
12 right -- yeah. Should be at the back of the room  
13 there. There should be one for just appearance  
14 and there should be one if you want to provide  
15 testimony.

16 MR. OTTOLINO: Start?

17 HEARING OFFICER ALIKHAN: Sure.

18 MR. OTTOLINO: My name is Joseph  
19 Ottolino, last name is O-T-T-O-L-I-N-O.

20 Good afternoon, members of the Board and  
21 fellow citizens. Thank you for this opportunity  
22 again to testify for this application before you.

23 I'm Joe Ottolino, Chief Executive  
24 Officer of West Suburban Medical Center in Oak



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1 Park.

2 We serve not only the west suburbs, but  
3 the neighborhoods on the west side of Chicago  
4 including Austin, Humboldt Park, Garfield Park,  
5 and Lawndale. Our patient profile from 2018 shows  
6 that about 75 per -- 74 percent of our patients  
7 are Black and 11 percent are Latino. We are also  
8 on the front line with our partners, PCC Community  
9 Wellness Center, in battling the opioid epidemic.

10 Last October the State of Illinois  
11 designated us as a safety net hospital, confirming  
12 that we play an important role in providing  
13 healthcare to some of the regions most in need.

14 We urge you to support our application  
15 before the Board that would make West Suburban  
16 Medical Center part of the National Pipeline  
17 Health System corporation structure, something  
18 that is not at the time.

19 This will allow us to use the benefits  
20 of scale and better serve our community with high  
21 quality, cost effective healthcare for decades to  
22 come, just like we have for nearly 105 years.

23 It is clear that the new model of  
24 healthcare deliveries are necessary to achieve

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1 this goal, especially in impoverished and urban  
2 communities. Freestanding hospitals are no longer  
3 economically viable or sustain the long term  
4 without being part of a larger network.

5 Since we face many of the same  
6 challenges that Pipeline's other hospitals face in  
7 Dallas and Los Angeles, we can use their knowledge,  
8 experience and best practices to better serve our  
9 patients.

10 While we go through the regulatory  
11 approval, we have not just been standing idly by.  
12 Our efforts during 2019 have provided several  
13 important results, our LeapFrog safety score  
14 rating up to an A from a B previously. We have  
15 hired five additional physicians and two advanced  
16 practice nurses. We have seen patient volumes  
17 increase both in inpatient and outpatient, and we  
18 have an increase in our labor and deliveries. Our  
19 new electronic medical record system remains on  
20 schedule and on budget to go live in March.

21 We do have additional plans to purchase  
22 additional medical equipment, expand and open new  
23 programs, all while expanding community outreach  
24 efforts. But for this to have happen, the

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1 greatest change -- part but for this to have the  
2 greatest chance of happening we need the Board to  
3 approve the application to become part of Pipeline  
4 Health System's corporate structure. This will  
5 give us the additional resources to make these  
6 goals a reality.

7 As part of a larger health system we  
8 will have better financial stability to attract  
9 and maintain medical talents. The change requests  
10 in our application while might appear small, it is  
11 critical for West Suburban's long-term future and  
12 the health of our communities.

13 Our hospital, like many others, continue  
14 to navigate a healthcare system undergoing  
15 dramatic changes brought by the passing of the  
16 Affordable Care Act, changes by the State of  
17 Illinois with its Medicaid Managed Care and more.

18 We need to continue to adapt and have  
19 the ability to build a 21st Century healthcare  
20 system for Chicago, this region, and Illinois.  
21 Your support for this application will help us to  
22 do that. Thank you again.

23 HEARING OFFICER ALIKHAN: Thank you.

24 Is there anyone else who wishes to

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1     testify or provide comment who has not had the  
2     opportunity to do so?

3             (No response.)

4             HEARING OFFICER ALIKHAN:   Okay.   I don't  
5     hear anybody else asking to come up to talk or to  
6     present testimony.

7             Let me conclude by saying that please  
8     note this project is tentatively scheduled for  
9     consideration by the Board at its February 25th,  
10    2020 meeting.   The meeting will be held at  
11    Bolingbrook Golf Club located at 2001 Rodeo Drive,  
12    in Bolingbrook, Illinois.

13            Please refer to the Board website at  
14    [www.HFSRB.illinois.gov](http://www.HFSRB.illinois.gov) for more details and  
15    possible agenda changes.

16            I also ask that you please prepare to  
17    take note of the following changes and dates and  
18    times regarding Exemption Number 006-20.

19            Written comments regarding Exemption  
20    006-20 must be received by 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday,  
21    February 5th.   The State Board staff report will  
22    be posted online at [HFSRB.illinois.gov.sars.htm](http://HFSRB.illinois.gov.sars.htm) on  
23    Tuesday, February 11.

24            Written responses to the State Board

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1 staff report must be submitted by 9:00 a.m. on  
2 Tuesday, February 18. Written comments and  
3 responses can also be sent to the Illinois Health  
4 Facilities and Services Review Board to the  
5 attention of Courtney Avery, Board Administrator,  
6 525 West Jefferson Street, Second Floor,  
7 Springfield, Illinois 62761. Thank you.

8 Returning back to our hearing. I will  
9 just say that we will leave the remainder of the  
10 hearing open until 1:00 p.m., if anyone else  
11 should decide to appear and provide written and  
12 oral testimony. Let the record reflect we are  
13 leaving the hearing open until 1:00 p.m. today to  
14 see if anyone else will appear and provide  
15 testimony on E-005-20.

16 (Pause in proceedings.)

17 HEARING OFFICER ALIKHAN: We are  
18 resuming hearing on Pipeline's application for  
19 West Suburban Hospital, Number E-005-20 at Oak  
20 Park Library this morning. And as of  
21 approximately 1:00 p.m. we have no other visitors  
22 or members of the public here to offer written or  
23 oral comments or simply appear before the hearing.  
24 At this point we are now closing the hearing for

E-005-20 West Suburban Medical Center  
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1 Number E-005-20.

2 (Off the record at 1:00 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY PUBLIC

I, Mike Pietanza, the officer before whom the foregoing deposition was taken, do hereby certify that said proceedings were electronically recorded by me; 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 3rd day of February, 2020.



MIKE PIETANZA, NOTARY PUBLIC  
FOR THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I, Lee Ann Nussbaum, do hereby certify that  
the foregoing transcript is a true and correct  
record of the recorded proceedings; that said  
proceedings were transcribed to the best of my  
ability from the audio recording and supporting  
information; 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.



LEE ANN NUSSBAUM, CET

Certified Electronic Transcriber

February 10, 2020



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