



SIH System Office

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Good morning.

My name is Cathy Blythe and I serve as the System Director of Strategic Services at Southern Illinois Healthcare. I am pleased to support this affiliation agreement between our system and Harrisburg Medical Center.

We believe that Harrisburg Medical Center's affiliation with our system will improve the delivery of health care services to residents of Saline County, the county in which Harrisburg Medical Center's hospital is located, as well as the extended region in southeastern Illinois that is served both through the hospital and its other facilities.

This transaction will strengthen the existing relationship between Harrisburg Medical Center and Southern Illinois Healthcare by deepening and broadening the services provided to the communities that Harrisburg Medical Center serves, and it will increase Harrisburg's ability to meet the clinical, financial, and technological needs of southeastern Illinois residents.

Residents of Harrisburg Medical Center's service area will benefit from the regional and tertiary care services that Southern Illinois Healthcare provides as well as the increased opportunities for Harrisburg Medical Center to recruit specialists. As part of a larger system, Harrisburg Medical Center will be able to strengthen the depth and breadth of services through increased access to specialists, resources, and advanced medical technologies. Enhancements in care coordination and clinical standardization will lead to improved quality of care and more effective delivery of healthcare services.

As a result of this affiliation, local residents will be provided with increased access to care, including an expansion of badly needed mental health services, and an increase in quality and outcomes of care through enhanced facilities and technology.

It is important to note that this affiliation will also result in increased educational opportunities for health occupations, which will both benefit the local workforce and increase the availability of healthcare workers in southeastern Illinois.

Furthermore, as a result of this transaction, numerous opportunities for cost savings will be achieved. Harrisburg Medical Center's information technology and software will be transitioned to Southern Illinois Healthcare's platform, leading to increased efficiencies, an improved revenue cycle, and lower costs.

Becoming part of a larger health system will reduce Harrisburg Medical Center's costs through economies of scale and reduction of overhead, as well as the ability to access more competitive pricing for supplies, drugs, and other services.

Refinancing Harrisburg Medical Center's debt under Southern Illinois Healthcare's stronger credit rating will generate material annual savings.

This affiliation will improve Harrisburg Medical Center's financial performance and improve its ability to meet its community's healthcare needs.

Our system is committed to improving health outcomes, addressing healthcare needs, and maintaining community-based care for the region served by Harrisburg Medical Center.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.