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Transcript of Public Hearing

Date: October 18, 2021

Case: Northwestern Medicine McHenry Hospital / #E-044-21

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1 ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
2 HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD
3

4 PUBLIC HEARING
5 PROJECT #E-044-21 NORTHWEST MEDICINE McHENRY
6 HOSPITAL

7 (Conducted Virtually)
8 Monday, October 18, 2021
9 11:00 EST
10

11 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

12 April Simmons
13 Ann Guild
14 George Roate
15 Mike Constantino
16 Mike Mitchell
17
18
19
20
21

22 Job: 407294

23 Pages: 1 - 36

24 Transcribed by: Molly Bugher

1 ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:

2 Bridget Orth

3

4 Dr. Irfan Hafiz

5 President and Chief Medical Officer

6 Northwestern Medicine Northwestern Region

7

8 Nick Rave

9 President Northwestern McHenry Hospital

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

2 MS. SIMMONS: Good morning. I'm April
3 Simmons, General Counsel and hearing officer for
4 the Illinois Health Facilities and Services review
5 board. Also present today are Ann Guild, Mike
6 Constantino, and George Roate.

7 On behalf of the HFSRB, thank you for
8 attending today's proceeding pertaining to the
9 (inaudible) of exemption application, E-044-21,
10 submitted by Northwestern Medicine McHenry
11 Hospital, McHenry (inaudible) to discontinue
12 (inaudible) of the 23 bed obstetric care category
13 of service at Northwestern Medicine McHenry
14 Hospital, 4201 Medical Center Dr., McHenry,
15 Illinois.

16 Per the rules of the Illinois Health
17 Planning Act the previously published legal notice
18 of review and opportunity for public hearing and
19 written comment, and public hearing and
20 opportunity for written comment will be submitted
21 to the court reporter for inclusion in today's
22 record.

23 The public hearing is to be held by the
24 Illinois Health Facilities Services Review Board

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1 pursuant to the Illinois Health Facilities
2 Planning Act. The hearing is open to the public
3 and will afford an opportunity for parties of
4 interest to present written and/or verbal comment
5 relevant to the project. All allegations or
6 assertions should be relevant to the need for the
7 proposed project.

8 Please note, that in order to ensure
9 that the Health Facilities and Services Review
10 Board's public hearing protects the privacy and
11 maintain the confidentiality of an individual's
12 health information, covered entities as defined by
13 the Health Insurance Portability and
14 Accountability Act of 1996, such as hospital
15 providers, health plans, and healthcare clearing
16 houses submitting oral or written testimony that
17 disclose protected health information of
18 individuals shall have a valid, written
19 authorization from that individual. The
20 authorization shall allow the covered entity to
21 share the individual's protected health
22 information at the hearing.

23 Those of you that have prepared text of
24 your testimony please note that you may submit the

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1 written text and via electronic mail at
2 DPH.HFSB.publichearing@illinois.gov, which will be
3 entered into today's record and made available for
4 all HFSRB prior to the tentatively scheduled
5 January 25th State Board meeting.

6 Please note that everyone will be given
7 an opportunity to provide testimony. I will call
8 your name and unmute your microphone. Should you
9 have any questions, please send a message to me in
10 the chat box. I ask that you limit your testimony
11 to three minutes. Prior to beginning your remarks
12 clearly state and spell your full name.

13 Are there any questions regarding these
14 instructions? Do we see any hands raised, Mike?

15 Hearing none, today's proceedings will
16 begin with a representative from Northwestern
17 Medicine. Bridget.

18 DR. HAFIZ: Good morning. Thank you
19 very much for having me. My name is Dr. Irfan
20 Hafiz. Hopefully you can all hear me. Is the
21 audio coming through?

22 MS. SIMMONS: It is. Thank you.

23 DR. HAFIZ: Thanks. I'm the vice
24 president and chief medical officer for

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1 Northwestern Medicine in the northwest region,
2 covering both McHenry, Huntley, and the Woodstock
3 campuses.

4 As many of you know the State of
5 Illinois is challenged by the fact that the number
6 of births continue to decline. The most recent
7 data from the Illinois Department of Public Health
8 shows that the number of births across Illinois
9 has decreased by 15 percent since 2010.

10 The situation in McHenry County is
11 really where the IDPH data shows that births have
12 decreased nearly 11 percent during that same time.
13 As a result, the number of deliveries currently
14 performed annually at Northwestern McHenry and
15 Huntley hospitals, even when combined, is well
16 below the national and state standards.

17 By consolidating inpatient obstetric
18 services into one location at Northwestern
19 Medicine Huntley Hospital, Northwestern Medicine
20 can create the critical mass of patients required
21 to bring specialty services such as maternal fetal
22 medicine for high risk pregnancy, neonatal
23 cardiology, these services to McHenry County that
24 previously were not possible. Ultimately, the

1 residents of McHenry County will be better served
2 by this plan.

3 NM's goal is to continue to prioritize
4 safe and effective care for all patients across
5 the region. Building a comprehensive model of
6 inpatient OB and neonatal care at Northwestern
7 Medicine Huntley Hospital supports the enhancement
8 and expansion of women's services across the
9 region. Consistent with Northwestern Medicine's
10 Patients First mission all patients will continue
11 to be able to access the same quality, high
12 quality care that they do today with the same
13 providers and staff.

14 The decision to consolidate OB services
15 at Northwestern Medicine's Huntley Hospital is
16 based on a thorough analysis that examines
17 capacity, population projections, and drive times
18 as well. Northwestern Medicine, Huntley Hospital
19 has enough capacity to consolidate the existing
20 the existing volume and, an additional 30 percent
21 of growth if needed.

22 Additionally, the 18 to 44 female cohort
23 is expected to grow faster in the ZIP Code
24 surrounding Huntley Hospital than areas north of -

1 in the northern part of the county. As far as
2 drive times ago, over the past few years McHenry
3 County residents have traveled an average of 13.1
4 miles for a delivery, with 28.7 percent of these
5 patients traveling more than 16 miles.

6 If all of Northwestern Medicine McHenry
7 hospital patient deliveries are shifted to Huntley
8 Hospital, the average travel distance will
9 increase to 13.5 miles, or .4 miles on average
10 increase. However, the percent of patients
11 traveling more than 16 miles will actually
12 decrease from the current distance traveled for
13 the average McHenry county resident.

14 It is important to note that the
15 majority of obstetric care is delivered in the
16 clinic outpatient setting. Northwestern will
17 continue to operate all of the outpatient
18 obstetrics and gynecology physician practices in
19 Crystal Lake, Huntley, McHenry and Woodstock that
20 they do today.

21 Also, Northwestern medicine Huntley and
22 McHenry hospital will continue to offer
23 gynecologic surgery and McHenry Hospital will
24 retain the robot technology that is preferred for

1 many gynecologic procedures.

2 In closing, we believe that Northwestern
3 Medicine's plan to consolidate in patient
4 obstetric services and neonatology services at the
5 Huntley campus will improve access to quality
6 healthcare services for the residents of McHenry
7 County for years to come.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. SIMMONS: Thank you. Bridget, do
10 you have another individual that wishes to testify
11 at this time? Or should I ask for additional
12 individuals to raise their hand?

13 MS. ORTH: We have just one more
14 person.

15 MS. SIMMONS: Okay. Thank you. Please
16 go right ahead.

17 MR. RAVE: Good morning, and thank you
18 for this opportunity to present. My name is Nick
19 Rave and I am the president of Northwestern
20 Medicine's McHenry Hospital.

21 Northwestern Medicine's Patients First
22 mission is rooted in the dedication to providing
23 exceptional, comprehensive care close to where our
24 patients live and work. We have made substantial

1 investments in our physicians, in our facilities,
2 in our technology, in our clinical program, and in
3 our subspecialty services. This has led to
4 exceptional performance gains in the areas of
5 quality, growth, and service.

6 Our plan to consolidate inpatient
7 obstetric services at Huntley Hospital is
8 consistent with our mission and presents an
9 opportunity to improve overall access to care for
10 all McHenry County residents.

11 Over the past three months at McHenry
12 Hospital we've been operating at what we call tier
13 red, or surge status. What this means is our
14 current inpatient demand, and this is not driven
15 by COVID is outpacing our bed capacity. We
16 continue to experience significant growth in those
17 high acuity services such as cardiology, cardiac
18 surgery, neurology, our stroke program and
19 neurosurgery.

20 This demand for high acuity care has led
21 to extended emergency department wait times and an
22 increase in our patients leaving without being
23 seen by either a physician or a provider. We are
24 also experiencing significant delays for patients

1 coming from the emergency department who need to
2 be transferred into an inpatient bed.

3 The average annual occupancy for the
4 McHenry OB unit has been well under the state
5 standard for many years, and it continues to
6 decline. Going from 37 percent in calendar year
7 '16 to 29 percent in calendar year '20. The
8 integration of OB services at Huntley Hospital
9 will allow for investment in private inpatient
10 rooms at McHenry Hospital as well as the expansion
11 of other clinical services identified as
12 priorities in our tri-annual community health
13 needs assessment of the community served by
14 McHenry Hospital.

15 In summary, and in closing, the proposed
16 consolidation of inpatient obstetric care to
17 Huntley Hospital will also improve access to much-
18 needed acute care for the residents of McHenry
19 County, while at the same time improving our
20 overall obstetrics program. Thank you.

21 MS. SIMMONS: Thank you. At this time,
22 I'm going to go to the other participant.
23 Callers, I believe it is, and correct me if I am
24 wrong, is it star 3 to raise your hand? Any other

1 participants is you would like to testify, please
2 just raise your hand.

3 Is it star three, Mike?

4 MR. MITCHELL: I believe that's correct,
5 yes.

6 MS. SIMMONS: Okay. I think I see
7 Senator Wilcox. I am going to unmute you at this
8 time.

9 SENATOR WILCOX: Thank you. Can you
10 guys hear me?

11 MS. SIMMONS: Yes.

12 SENATOR WILCOX: This is Senator Wilcox,
13 can you hear me?

14 MS. SIMMONS: Yes, we can.

15 SENATOR WILCOX: Thank you. I know your
16 public comment is limited to two minutes, I tried
17 my best. I basically have five questions for
18 Northwestern, and two for HFSRB and their board
19 and I will try and get through them quickly.

20 For Northwestern, the first question,
21 your notice shows that significantly more births
22 occur at Northwestern Medicine McHenry, roughly
23 1,100 yearly over the past three years than occur
24 at the Huntley facility, roughly 650 yearly over

1 the past three years.

2 Could you explain why consolidating at
3 Huntley is better than consolidating at McHenry,
4 or why instead you couldn't just reduce the size
5 of both OBs at each location and why that would
6 not be more advantageous to residents from the
7 county and neighboring communities?

8 The second question, as you mentioned in
9 your opening testimony and in the notice your
10 claim is that the average drive distance only
11 increases from 13.1 to 13.5 miles and you may
12 actually see a decrease of those traveling more
13 than 16 miles. You certainly have the data for
14 the past 10 years of patients giving birth, you
15 know how far they have traveled.

16 I'm wondering if you could provide HFSRB
17 and the Board, and public a map of the general
18 location of those patients over the past 10 years,
19 and actually show the distance traveled to McHenry
20 and the Duke distance and they would be required
21 to travel to Huntley. I'm obviously concerned
22 about the northern McHenry and Lake County
23 constituents, as well as those in southern
24 Wisconsin.

1 Third question. I've heard that August
2 is the busiest birth month, generally, in the U.S.
3 and you did provide a letter to me with some of
4 that detail. I hope you will make that available
5 to the Board. But could you also provide what
6 those births were like over the past 10 years?
7 You included three years in the letter to me.

8 Fourth question. Maybe for
9 Northwestern, but also, maybe for HFSRB; are there
10 any other State Senate districts in Illinois that
11 do not have an OB unit within their district
12 boundaries at this time?

13 That claims and expectations of 18 to
14 44-year-old females will grow faster in ZIP Codes
15 closer to Northwestern Medicine Huntley. Would
16 you be willing to make those population
17 projections rather than asking the HFSRB board and
18 the public to accept your assessment to those?

19 In other words, did your analysis and
20 projected birth rates take into consideration the
21 significant development occurring around the
22 Northwestern Medicine McHenry facility, such as
23 1,500 homes in Thatcher Meadows, proposed
24 apartment complexes in McHenry, of the growth of

1 homes in Patriot Estates which is just down the
2 road from the McHenry facility. And have you
3 reached out to organizations like Hartman
4 Realtors, or McHenry County Economic Development
5 Corporation or others who track these trends in
6 home growth in population in the area to validate
7 your claims?

8 The two questions for HFSRB and the
9 Board. I could not confirm prior to this meeting,
10 but I have been told that a Level 2 trauma center
11 under state statute to preclude the possible need
12 for a critical C-section operations for pregnant
13 women involved in a trauma induced the situation.
14 And I am looking for clarification if that is true
15 or not, and how it would apply to the Level 2
16 trauma center at McHenry.

17 And then lastly, as it was addressed,
18 the births down in Illinois 15 percent, but only
19 down 11 percent in McHenry County in the same time
20 period. Has the State looked at the 75 percent
21 occupancy standard for OB units, which is one of
22 the drivers of Northwestern Medicine's exemption
23 request and determined statewide how many other OB
24 units could be closed if the 75 percent occupancy

1 standard were the driver? And obviously, I'm
2 looking at the implications to pregnant women
3 statewide. So I guess what I'm asking is, if the
4 75 percent occupancy standard still valid or does
5 that need a wholesale review given trends in
6 Illinois?

7 Thank you for the time, and I will
8 anxiously listen for other public comments or any
9 responses Northwestern or the Board would like to
10 give at this time. Thank you.

11 MS. SIMMONS: Thank you Senator Wilcox.
12 Your questions will be noted as record on this
13 public hearing.

14 At this time, ask for any additional
15 testimony from the participants. If you can
16 please raise your hand or if you are a call-in,
17 indicate by raising your hand by star 3.

18 Mike, I'm going to ask you to help me
19 with this. Just make sure I'm not missing anyone.

20 MR. MITCHELL: It looks like we have two
21 right now who have their hands raised.

22 MS. SIMMONS: I do not see them.

23 MR. MITCHELL: Jerilyn Malliet and
24 Shauna Willis. They should be down just below the

1 panelists on your list.

2 MS. SIMMONS: Okay. Thank you, Mike, I
3 appreciate it.

4 Jerilyn Malliet, I am meeting you at
5 this time. You are unmuted.

6 MS. MALLIET: Thank you for the
7 opportunity. I support what Senator Wilcox
8 presented as his very comprehensive questions.
9 But my questions, I guess, are similar. And it
10 sounds like - and I wish the documentation, and it
11 was touched upon and anticipated, increase in
12 births in the Huntley area, I wish there would
13 have been full disclosure on why the hospital is
14 doing this. And the evidence that you have that
15 there will be with a large retailer coming into
16 that area. What is your evidence of that it will
17 be increased?

18 And with the delay of the development to
19 that large retailer building in Huntley, is the
20 hospital reconsidering when they would do this
21 large move of very important services for the
22 northern McHenry County area?

23 MS. SIMMONS: Thank you, Ms. Malliet.
24 Your questions are noted for the record.

1 And Mike, I know you said there was
2 another, but I have lost that person.

3 I cannot see -- oh, Shauna Willis. I am
4 unmuting you.

5 MS. WILLIS: Thank you for giving me the
6 opportunity to speak. I did submit an email
7 yesterday. I wasn't sure when that would get read
8 or if it was seen yet. But my question does stand
9 as well, like, where's the proof coming from. As
10 I live on the farthest side of McHenry and I'm
11 currently pregnant myself.

12 And I'm one of the high risk patients
13 that would need to go to McHenry and I'm just
14 wondering, like, when this all came about and then
15 also too, like, when were you guys supposed to be
16 moving the OB unit over there? Because all I've
17 been told by my OB is that it is in the middle of
18 December and my due date is December 22nd. So I
19 need to know to be prepared for myself as far as
20 emergencies goes, like, how far of a travel I'm
21 going to have so I can plan for that.

22 My first pregnancy I had really bad
23 preeclampsia and I almost died and had I not been
24 living right next to the hospital and I would have

1 had to drive to Huntley at that time, I would have
2 died, and so would have my child. So I'm just
3 wondering, like, where all of this and when all of
4 this is going to take place so I can plan my birth
5 in the next two months.

6 MS. SIMMONS: Thank you Ms. Willis.

7 Any additional testimony, questions from
8 the participants please indicate by raising your
9 hand or star 3 if you are a call in.

10 Mike, do you see -- I do not see any
11 additional hands raised or any additional
12 indication. Do you Mike?

13 MR. MITCHELL: No. I don't see any at
14 this time.

15 MS. SIMMONS: Okay. Well, this is an
16 hour long public hearing. At this time we will --
17 I will wait and come back and ask additional
18 questions in a couple of minutes.

19 MR. MITCHELL: April, Senator Wilcox
20 appears to have raised his hand. I'm not sure
21 whether he has another comment.

22 MS. SIMMONS: I can't find Senator
23 Wilcox.

24 MR. MITCHELL: All right. It's Craig

1 Wilcox.

2 MS. SIMMONS: Give me one second.

3 Okay. I see him. Senator Wilcox, you
4 have your hand raised. I unmuted you.

5 SENATOR WILCOX: Yes, thank you. I was
6 hoping that you could repeat the email and I will
7 submit my questions in writing.

8 And then, just had a question on
9 process. In talking with George Roate earlier
10 today I understand that this notice of exemption
11 is scheduled for the January 26th Board meeting.
12 I guess my presumption would be in regards to the
13 one constituent asking about OB services; is it
14 correct that my understanding would be that OB
15 services at McHenry would continue until such time
16 as the HFSRB approved or disapprove the exemption?

17 MS. SIMMONS: Senator Wilcox, that would
18 be the assumption that that would continue. If
19 you have additional questions regarding the
20 process you can feel free to give myself or Mr.
21 Roate or Mr. Constantino a call and we can give
22 you detailed information exactly on the process of
23 the Board.
24 The email address is

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1 DPH.HFSRB.publichearings, spelled out so that's

2 P-U-B-L-I-C, H-E-A-R-I-N-G-S @illinois.gov.

3 Again, that's

4 DPH.HFSRB.publichearings@illinois.gov.

5 SENATOR WILCOX: Thank you for that. No
6 further questions.

7 MS. SIMMONS: Thank you.

8 Is there any additional questions,
9 please -- or testimony please indicate by raising
10 your hand, or star 3 if you are a call-in user.

11 Mike, do you see any?

12 MR. MITCHELL: No additional hands at
13 this time.

14 MS. SIMMONS: Okay.

15 MR. MITCHELL: One just popped up.
16 Khalid Siddiqui.

17 MS. SIMMONS: Okay. Here it is. Mr.
18 Siddiqui, I am unmuting you.

19 DR. SIDDIQUI: Okay. Thank you very
20 much. Can you hear me?

21 MS. SIMMONS: Yes we can, please
22 continue.

23 DR. SIDDIQUI: My name is Dr. Siddiqui.
24 I am one of the provider, providing the neonatal

1 care since 2014 in McHenry. And I live in
2 Rockford but I commute there and I was surprised
3 when they closed the (indiscernible) there at
4 McHenry because they have no provider for the
5 babies, newborn babies who are in trouble, if
6 they're born earlier to help.

7 Because in the McHenry area that's a
8 very rural area. People are going to drive a
9 significant amount. And if you go from there to
10 the Huntley, there is only one road which
11 sometimes with the slow traffic take a long time,
12 more than a half-hour. And for the babies, you
13 know, they only need 10 or 15 minutes if they
14 don't get the proper treatment, they can have
15 long-term damage.

16 And I'm afraid if everybody have to go
17 from the northside of McHenry to the Huntley for
18 delivery and there is emergency, they deliver out
19 in the -- you know, they won't get the proper care
20 as a neonate need. And 10, 15 minutes delay will
21 cause significant damages to those babies. And
22 how they can get to the Huntley when just driving
23 from McHenry Hospital to Huntley takes half-hour,
24 somebody living in the North side he does not --

1 that baby who deliver prematurely and need some
2 help does not have any help at that area, which is
3 devastating to those babies.

4 Which I cannot understand how the public
5 care or our public health can allow for those
6 people not to have any services for the delivery.
7 That was my surprise to know that that area does
8 not have any more labor and deliver services and
9 delivering their babies. So how it has happened,
10 how they can allow that.

11 MS. SIMMONS: Thank you for your
12 comments.

13 Is there any other testimony, please
14 indicate by raising your hand or if you're a call-
15 in user star 3 on the phone.

16 MR. MITCHELL: We just had Kailee
17 Schultz raise her hand.

18 MS. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mike.

19 Ms. Schultz, you are unmuted.

20 MS. SCHULTZ: Hi. My name is Kailee and
21 I just have a concern. So most of the data it
22 sounds like that Northwestern is using to validate
23 consolidating the services from McHenry to Huntley
24 is based off of projections of people that will be

1 of child-bearing age, I guess we'll call it, in
2 the future. My concern is why aren't we using
3 current data to determine whether or not we should
4 consolidate these services and where these
5 services should be consolidated.

6 Because currently, McHenry is doing, I
7 would say, a significant amount of more deliveries
8 than Huntley is. And I believe currently both
9 hospitals are pretty much at surge capacity right
10 now. So just wanted to make those concerns.

11 MS. SIMMONS: Thank, you, Ms. Schultz.
12 Any additional testimony, please indicate by
13 raising your hands or star 3 if you are a call-in
14 user.

15 I'm not seeing at this time. So I will
16 mute myself and come back in a couple of minutes
17 to see if there any additional testimony.

18 MR. MITCHELL: April, I'm now seeing two
19 additional individuals for comment.

20 MS. SIMMONS: I see Michelle Johnson at
21 this time. I am unmuting you.

22 MS. JOHNSON: Hi. My name is Michelle
23 Johnson and I am an old labor and delivery nurse
24 and I also work for a bunch of attorneys and I

1 have my own business for medical legal consulting.
2 My concern is that many times a baby comes in and
3 needs to be delivered within a 30-minute period.
4 Now, you're making those patients drive an extra
5 30 minutes to Huntley and when they get there,
6 there is maybe no chance to save the baby. So I'm
7 looking at the emergency aspects of this and what
8 will happen if just one lawsuit comes? You know,
9 it's going to be very expensive so that's my
10 concern.

11 MS. SIMMONS: Thank you.

12 Mike, who was the other? What was the
13 other hand?

14 MR. MITCHELL: We have Raquel Hanson.

15 MS. SIMMONS: Okay. I see her.
16 (inaudible).

17 MS. HANSON: Hi, this is Raquel. Thank
18 you very much. We were concerned with when these
19 questions would be addressed that are being asked?
20 Is there a separate time that they will be
21 answered for us?

22 MS. SIMMONS: Ms. Hanson, the questions
23 are being made part of the record and are noted to
24 the Board. At the board meeting the staff

1 indicates the questions to the Board. I believe
2 it's 14 days prior to the board meeting and the
3 Board has time to review these questions as well
4 as everything else, the public hearing the
5 testimony, the transcript and address those
6 questions at that time.

7 MS. HANSON: Okay. Well, is there a
8 follow-up then where us - where we are able to
9 hear the responses from the questions and the
10 reviewing of all the information?

11 MS. SIMMONS: On the Board's website
12 it's listed when the board meeting for this
13 particular application will be listed and you can
14 definitely call in and participate in the board
15 meeting on that particular day. It's open to the
16 public and you can hear everything that's being
17 said about this particular application.

18 MS. HANSON: Thank you so much.

19 MS. SIMMONS: You're welcome.

20 Any other testimony, please indicate by
21 raising your hand.

22 And Mike, for whatever reason my
23 background is black and it's blending in with the
24 handraising, that's why I can't see it.

1 MR. MITCHELL: Okay. I don't see any
2 additional hands raised at this time.

3 MS. SIMMONS: Okay. We still have
4 additional time. I will mute myself and come back
5 in a few more minutes.

6 (Pause)

7 MS. SIMMONS: Is there any additional
8 testimony, please indicate by raising your hand or
9 star 3 if you are a call-in user.

10 I am not seeing any additional hands
11 raised.

12 (Pause)

13 MR. MITCHELL: April, we now have a June
14 Frantz with her hand raised.

15 MS. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mike.

16 Ms. Franz, I am unmuting you. Please
17 proceed.

18 Ms. Franz? I think you muted yourself.
19 There you go. I unmuted you.

20 Ms. Franz?

21 Okay. I'm going to mute you for now.

22 Thank you, Ms. Franz. She actually --
23 her microphone doesn't work so I will read her
24 question.

1 Did HFSRB receive any written comments
2 and would they read them into the record today?

3 We did receive written comments and they
4 will be placed in the record. They will not be
5 read in the record. Just like the transcript from
6 this public hearing the written questions and
7 testimony will also be received. The Board will
8 also receive those.

9 If there is any additional testimony
10 please indicate by raising your hand or pressing
11 star 3 on your phone if you are a call-in user.

12 I see Ashley McGregor. I am unmuting
13 you.

14 MS. MCGREGOR: Hi. I am just confused
15 as to which board you are referring to. The
16 website we can find the information on the next
17 meeting where the questions will be answered.
18 Could you clarify that so the public that's
19 listening now can know where to find that
20 information to get their question answered and
21 review the questions that were submitted and those
22 answers that are raised today?

23 MS. SIMMONS: Sure. The board is the
24 Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review

1 Board. All of the time for this particular
2 exemption application will be listed when the next
3 board meeting would be for this particular
4 application and all applications that's submitted
5 to the board. All the records is published also
6 online so you will also be able to see that
7 information as well.

8 Again, that is the Illinois Health
9 Facilities and Services Review Board. You can go
10 online and you can find out when the next board
11 meeting would be for this particular application.

12 If there is additional testimony, please
13 indicate by raising your hand or star 3 if you are
14 a call-in user.

15 The -- I also want to note the board
16 meeting once you -- for the next -- for all of the
17 board meetings there is a link and it will direct
18 you to the call-in information once that link is
19 established for the next board meeting. And so
20 all of that information is listed online.

21 MR. MITCHELL: All right, April, Ashley
22 McGregor has raised her hand.

23 MS. SIMMONS: Thank you Mike.
24 I am unmuting you. Ms. McGregor?

1 MS. MCGREGOR: Thank you for the
2 information and the website address. I'm just
3 assuming that since the Board is not meeting again
4 until January that Northwestern would be able to
5 possibly still move the services or commence
6 services on December 15th or before, or would this
7 -- these questions from the public delay that at
8 all?

9 MS. SIMMONS: As I indicated -- I'm
10 sorry. Continue.

11 MS. MCGREGOR: No, that was it.

12 MS. SIMMONS: Okay. Thank you. As I
13 indicated earlier it is presumed that once an
14 application is filed that the applicant will wait
15 to hear the outcome of that application with the
16 Board, as general counsel to the Board. As though
17 it is assumed that that will wait. However -- as
18 general counsel of the board.

19 If there any additional testimony,
20 please indicate by raising your hand or star 3 if
21 you are a call-in user.

22 Mike, do you see any hand raised that
23 I'm not seeing?

24 MR. MITCHELL: There are no additional

1 hands raised at this time.

2 MS. SIMMONS: Are there any additional
3 individuals that would like to testify at this
4 time, please indicate by raising your hand or star
5 3 if you are a call-in user.

6 Briget, we are coming to a close. Is
7 there an additional individual that you would like
8 to testify on behalf of Northwestern or it was
9 just the two individuals?

10 MS. ORTH: Sorry, April, no. We are all
11 set those were our two statements.

12 MS. SIMMONS: Okay, thanks.

13 Is there any induvial (inaudible) to
14 testify that hasn't had the opportunity to
15 testify?

16 Mike, do you see any additional
17 individuals?

18 MR. MITCHELL: No, I don't.

19 MS. SIMMONS: Thank you.

20 Seeing and hearing none, please note
21 that this project is tentatively scheduled for
22 consideration by the State Board at its January
23 25th board meeting. Details pertaining to the
24 meetingwill be posted at a later date.

1 Please refer to the HFSRB website at
2 www.HFSRB.illinois.gov for more details and
3 possible agenda changes. I ask that you please
4 take note of the following dates and times
5 regarding project number 20-044.

6 Written comments must be received by 9
7 a.m. on Wednesday, January 5th. The State Board
8 staff report will be posted online at
9 www.HFSRB.Illinois.gov/SARS.htm by Tuesday,
10 January 11th.

11 Written responses to the State Board
12 staff report must be submitted by 9 a.m. on
13 Thursday, January 17th. Written comments and
14 responses must be sent to
15 DPH.HFSRB.publichearings@illinois.gov.

16 Again, the email address is
17 DPH.HFSRB.publichearings@illinois.gov, or the
18 Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review
19 Board, attention of Michael Constantino, Staff
20 Reviewer, 525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor,
21 Springfield, Illinois 62761.

22 And again, if you go to our website you
23 will find all of this information.
24 This concludes this public hearing.

1 Thank you.

2 (Off the record at 12:02 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

I, Eva Walsh, the officer before whom
the foregoing proceedings were 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.



Eva Walsh, Court Reporter

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I, Molly Bugher, 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.



Molly Bugher, CDLT-161

DATE: October 29, 2021