

Address to Illinois Health and Facilities Board
Wednesday, 26 January 2022 ~ 1300 hrs.

Good afternoon, I am Dyanna Rose Walker, a patient since age 16 in the Rockford Health System now known as Mercy Health. Currently, I have my primary and eight specialty physicians in the system. Since my first day as a patient, I receive exemplary comprehensive health care and customer service. The news of Mercy Health's application proposal to discontinue 70 medical/surgical beds at Rockton Avenue Campus of the Javon Bea Hospital is troubling although it is described in the application as substantive.

Further, Mercy Health lists the reason for discontinuation as the patient census is insufficient to justify the continued operation of a second inpatient medical/surgical set of beds in the Rockton Campus of the Javon Bea Hospital, stating that capacity at the Riverside Campus is more than sufficient to meet the need for health care.

In actuality this application is the final layer to replace comprehensive healthcare with specialty healthcare. The foundation was laid in 2015 and endorsed by the recklessness of elected officials who voted to provide a "flim flam con artist displaying "magic potions" and a "London bridge" with \$25 million dollars of taxpayer funds. Consequently, this flim flam artist has removed capable physicians, eliminated at and transferred medical service from the Rockton Avenue campus thus creating a greater hardship on the already underserved to receive comprehensive health care. Suffice to say the approval of this application will not only embolden the applicant to replace comprehensive health care on the Rockton Avenue campus and establish specialty health care on the Riverside campus but also allow the applicant to perpetuate systematic bait and switch tactics thus depriving the underserved with access to viable comprehensive healthcare.

This is the Midwest section of our nation where comprehensive medical health care is sorely needed not a specialty facility servicing those who have adequate funds or private medical insurance to seek/receive liposuction and plastic surgery. Succinctly, this is not Rodeo Drive in Hollywood.

I implore the members of this committee to apply a tourniquet to prevent continuing hemorrhaging in an already depleted health system campus. I urge you, members who were appointed to serve the citizens of Illinois in the area of comprehensive health care needs to deny the applicant's request.

Thank you for this opportunity to share concerns from a patient in the applicant's healthcare system.

The Rockton Campus is located at 2400 North Rockton Avenue, Rockford, Illinois 61103 and is a part of the Javon Bea Hospital, a hospital with a single license and two campuses. The proposed project involves the discontinuation of the medical/surgical beds category of service within an existing healthcare facility and as such is classified as substantive.

Project Status and Completion Schedules Outstanding Permits: Does the facility have any projects for which the State Board issued a permit that is not complete? Yes No. If yes, indicate the projects by project number and whether the project will be complete when the exemption that is the subject of this application is complete. • Mercy health Hospital and Medical Center – Medical Office Building (Permit #17-001). The project will not be complete when the exemption that is the subject of this application is complete. • Mercy health Hospital and Medical Center – Hospital (Permit #17-002). The project will not be complete when the exemption that is the subject of this application is complete.

Charity care" means care provided by a health care facility for which the provider does not expect to receive payment from the patient or a third-party payer (20 ILCS 3960/3). Charity Care must be provided at cost.

A table in the following format must be provided for all facilities as part of Attachment 10.

CHARITY CARE 2018 ~ \$357,923,621 2019 ~ 397,201,613
2020 ~ \$393,592,232

Amount of Charity Care (charges) Cost of Charity Care

2018 \$1, 738,679 2019 ~ \$813, 559 2020 ~ \$997,751

REASON FOR DISCONTINUATION The patient census is insufficient to justify the continued operation of a second inpatient medical/surgical set of beds in the Rockton Campus of the Javon Bea Hospital. The capacity at the Riverside Campus is more than sufficient to meet this need. This is evidenced by the chart below which shows the historical utilization data of the unit since 2018 through 2020 (the most recently available published utilization data). Utilization at the campus has steadily declined and utilization for last month was at 25.55%, well below the state's target utilization rate.