

From: [Gwenn Rausch](#)
To: [Constantino, Mike](#); [Simmons, April R.](#)
Subject: [External] Public Comment for E-025-22 - West Suburban Medical Center OPCO E-025-22
Date: Thursday, March 31, 2022 8:10:25 PM

I am writing to strongly support the transfer of Weiss Hospital to Resilience Health. I believe this is a critical move to ensure the hospital thrives and is able to fulfill its mission to provide quality healthcare to Chicago residents, especially those on the northside. I have been a Weiss Hospital Board member for eight years and can attest to its dedication to quality, safety, access and excellence in key areas. I have been a healthcare executive for more than thirty years and served in leadership roles in behavioral health and planning at Northwestern Memorial, was the COO at Saint Anthony Hospital, and most recently (prior to my retirement in 2020) was the CEO of Heartland Health Centers a federally qualified health center [FQHC] serving 30,000 low-income residents on the northside. It was through my work at Heartland Health Centers that I became involved with Weiss Hospital and was invited to represent the community as a board member.

Weiss Hospital has been in operation for seventy years. Over these many years this hospital was and continues to be the major employer in the Uptown neighborhood, employing 650 people. Weiss is a highly valued resource for training medical residents and medical students, nursing students and many other health professionals. Currently Weiss operates 236 beds including acute care, rehabilitation and geropsychiatry. Its Emergency Room [ER] provides essential critical care and urgent care to the surrounding community including to elderly persons from the many assisted living and skilled nursing facilities. Weiss is now certified as a Level III emergency care center for seniors. Weiss is a major resource to persons served by the many community agencies and FQHCs located in the Uptown neighborhood. For example, the two nearby Heartland Health Centers care for 12,000 people of all ages. Many live in close proximity to Weiss and seek services for specialty care, imaging and emergency care there. During the Covid crisis Weiss was able to adapt its resources to provide expert and innovative care and consultation on Covid management to the surrounding community. It also provided vaccines to 10,000 persons including many nursing home residents, nearby agency participants and public-school teachers.

Resilience Health has the needed experience and financing to operate Weiss Hospital. The proposed owners have demonstrated a sincere commitment to ensuring Weiss Hospital will **have the resources to thrive and continue serving Chicago families.**

Respectfully submitted, Gwenn A Rausch FACHE Weiss Board of Directors, retired healthcare executive and long-time resident of Chicago's northside.