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# Transcript of Public Hearing E-025-22 & E-026-22

**Date:** April 8, 2022

**Case:** State of Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD  
BEFORE HEARING OFFICER APRIL SIMMONS

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IN RE: :  
Public Hearing Regarding :  
the Application for :  
exemption for a change of : E-025-22  
ownership for West : E-026-22  
Suburban Medical Center, :  
Oak Park. :

-----x  
PUBLIC HEARING in accordance with requirements  
of the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act  
Conducted Virtually  
Friday, April 8, 2022  
10:01 a.m. CST

Job No.: 440682  
Pages: 1 - 45  
Reported by: Paula Quetsch, CSR, RPR

1 PUBLIC HEARING held virtually:  
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9 Before Paula Quetsch, a Certified Shorthand  
10 Reporter, Registered Professional Reporter, and a  
11 Notary Public in and for the State of Illinois.  
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1 PRESENT:

2 ILLINOIS HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES

3 REVIEW BOARD, by

4 APRIL SIMMONS, Public Hearing Officer

5 GEORGE ROATE, CON Reviewer

6 MICHAEL CONSTANTINO, IDPH Staff

7 MICHAEL MITCHELL, IDPH Staff

8 ANN GUILD, Compliance Manager

9 525 West Jefferson Street

10 Second Floor

11 Springfield, Illinois 62761

12 (217) 782-3516

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1 PROCEEDINGS

2 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: Good morning.

3 And please bear with me this morning as we try and  
4 navigate technology.

5 Good morning. My name is April Simmons,  
6 and I am the general counsel for the Illinois  
7 Health Facilities and Services Review Board. This  
8 morning I will also be acting as the hearing  
9 officer for today's proceeding. Present with me  
10 today also representing the Board are Mike  
11 Constantino, George Roate, and Ann Guild.

12 On behalf of the State Board thank you for  
13 attending this public hearing for the change of  
14 ownership of West Suburban Medical Center. Per  
15 the rules of Illinois Health Facilities and  
16 Services Review Board I would like to read the  
17 previously published legal notice into the record.

18 Notice of public hearing and written  
19 comment. In accordance with the requirements of  
20 the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act,  
21 notice is given of the receipt of an application  
22 for exemption for a change of ownership for West  
23 Suburban Medical Center, 3 Erie Court, Oak Park,  
24 Illinois, and that's Exemption 025-22 and

1 Exemption 026-22. This change of ownership is  
2 considered a purchase resulting in no change in  
3 the current licensee.

4 A public hearing has been scheduled today  
5 to be conducted virtually by the staff of the  
6 Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review  
7 Board beginning at 10:00 and going until 12:00 p.m.  
8 Persons wishing to submit written comments may  
9 send them to [dph.hfsrb.publichearings@illinois.gov](mailto:dph.hfsrb.publichearings@illinois.gov).

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

24 Prior to beginning your remarks, please

1 clearly state and spell your first and last name  
2 for the record. The applicant shall be afforded  
3 an opportunity to provide a summary of the request  
4 for Exemption Applications E-025-22 and E-026-22.  
5 Today's proceeding will begin with Dr. Prasad.

6 DR. PRASAD: Good morning everyone. My  
7 name is Manoj Prasad. That's M-a-n-o-j, last name  
8 P-r-a-s-a-d. I represent Resilience Healthcare  
9 and I'd like to make an opening statement for the  
10 record.

11 I am actually a 30-plus year veteran of  
12 working in the healthcare industry, having had the  
13 opportunity and the privilege of working with  
14 hospitals, and groups, and other healthcare  
15 providers who are experiencing challenges, whether  
16 it is financial, whether it is regulation challenges,  
17 and those are the ones that I work with to make  
18 sure that they can become self-sustainable  
19 organizations.

20 I got involved in the acquisition of  
21 West Suburban Medical Center because about a year --  
22 a little over year and a half ago I had heard  
23 about the Westlake Hospital situation, and I was  
24 one of the individuals who was trying to save it

1 and reopen it as an acute care hospital.

2 I was putting together a bid at the  
3 Bankruptcy Court for its acquisition. It so  
4 happened that along the lines when we were  
5 preparing our bid another individual came and  
6 significantly outbid what we were proposing, so I  
7 lost interest and I stepped back.

8 That is when I got introduced to the nice  
9 folks at Pipeline Health, and later when I heard  
10 and read about some of the situations that they  
11 were facing and the struggles that they were  
12 undertaking, I did -- I approached folks at  
13 Pipeline Health with an intent to perhaps, you  
14 know, acquire either one or both of their Chicago-  
15 based facilities.

16 And I've been looking at the facilities  
17 for about a year, and I believe that it is a  
18 tremendous opportunity. I'll tell you something,  
19 when I first walked into the hospital, I was  
20 expecting it to be in really bad shape, but I  
21 literally fell in love with the facility. I've  
22 recounted to several people in the past, it was on  
23 a very snowy January morning, and everything was  
24 absolutely pristine inside.

1           Then I got an opportunity to meet all of  
2 the dedicated people who work there, the  
3 physicians, the nursing, the frontline staff, and  
4 I saw such tremendous potential that I decided to  
5 pursue that.

6           I spent some time looking in the community  
7 and realized that in order to fully optimize the  
8 potential of this facility I needed to become part  
9 of it, part of the community, so accordingly I  
10 decided that as and when the time comes I will,  
11 you know, relocate, and in a couple of short weeks  
12 I will actually become an official, I think the  
13 term is Chicagoan, and so I will be relocating  
14 here fairly close to West Suburban Hospital.

15           Now, talking about how this whole thing  
16 came about, I spent some time looking at potential  
17 partners on the financial and, you know, who would  
18 be able to back up such an acquisition. What was  
19 very important to me was to find somebody who  
20 actually is fully dedicated to continuing to  
21 provide healthcare services and who would actually  
22 be a strong pillar upon whom we could rely upon if  
23 a situation arises that would -- you know, that  
24 would require that.

1           And I'm so happy that I was talking to our  
2 partner Mr. Reddy Rathnakar, and we've identified  
3 him, and he has his own love story to share about  
4 why Chicago, but he came along, and together we've  
5 come to this point where we have a proposal out,  
6 we have an application before the Board to move  
7 this forward.

8           Now, one of the questions that I'm constantly  
9 asked everywhere -- you know, I've been spending  
10 some time meeting not only just the lawmakers but  
11 the people in the community, the leaders of the  
12 community. We wanted to make sure that -- you  
13 know, I mean the question in their minds is, how  
14 is turnaround going to happen, and what have you  
15 spotted. Of course, I'm still an outsider looking  
16 in, but I see a lot of opportunity -- you know,  
17 the idea is to make this hospital a self-sustaining  
18 hospital that can, you know, be self-sustaining  
19 into eternity and remain financially stable.

20           So, you know, when I'm asked that question,  
21 one of the things I want to -- you know, I do  
22 respond with is, okay, this is a community  
23 hospital. Like any community hospital, it has a  
24 particular role to play in the community, and that

1 is to provide the kind of care that the community  
2 needs.

3 So one of the early things I do is I engage  
4 with not only the community but also my future  
5 colleagues who all are members of the community.  
6 So I get copious amounts of inputs so that I can  
7 actually help design a good strategic plan that  
8 the whole team, we can all execute together. And  
9 I keep that dialogue going so that it's not a  
10 one-time thing; it is a continuous interchange of  
11 ideas with the community.

12 We are fortunate to have a very dedicated  
13 governing board; I've had the privilege of meeting  
14 them. And the medical staff and the 800-plus, you  
15 know, colleagues, they are a great source of  
16 information, as well, and they can help us design  
17 the direction we want to take for the facility.  
18 And what is very important to us is to maintain  
19 the quality of care, and, you know, together we  
20 can identify areas that would need improving.

21 One of the first things that I believe  
22 this hospital is very, you know, I mean  
23 handicapped with is the perfect storm where a  
24 couple of years ago or year and a half ago there

1 was a transition from a certain billing system to  
2 what they have now. At the same time all the  
3 revenue sector functions moved from an outside  
4 company to in-house. Each one in itself can be a  
5 disaster if mishandled, and this one was a  
6 combination of both that the team at West Suburban  
7 is still trying to work towards rectifying.

8 Looking at what is out there, looking at  
9 some reports and others, very clear that, you  
10 know, if all the work that they are doing is -- I  
11 mean, if the reimbursement is timely, promptly  
12 collected, they would be doing extremely well by  
13 itself.

14 The other thing that, you know, you can  
15 see, I mean, there are so many owe efficiencies to  
16 be gained. For example, a simple thing like their  
17 employee benefits and, you know, other HR-related  
18 areas, having an organization and partnering with  
19 an organization that already covers 10, 15 lives  
20 of their own plus ours, we get better buying power  
21 to go to the Blues and other providers to get  
22 really good healthcare coverage for everyone, and  
23 we can substantially reduce costs.

24 Same thing, my little background in

1 technology using -- I found that using technology  
2 can significantly improve the efficiency and  
3 provide better care at the end of the day.

4 So there's a whole combination of things  
5 that one can do, and we can get substantial  
6 benefit from looking at a lot of these contracts,  
7 so that is one part of it, getting the costs  
8 optimized.

9 In addition to that the hospital has  
10 capacity to increase its patient volume. I mean,  
11 we have some absolute top-notch world class  
12 providers, specialists, but they would be able to  
13 best utilize their skills by getting a bigger base  
14 of patients' primary care physicians. And I've  
15 already started talking to several groups who are  
16 looking to, you know, move and come and support  
17 the hospital by bringing their patients and their  
18 practices to us. So that is something that I like  
19 to network quite a lot with the physician  
20 community, and we are hoping that that in itself  
21 would be of significant value.

22 So with that and, you know, there are some  
23 service lines that people have been talking about  
24 that would actually provide the kind of services

1 the community needs. Once we can get that firmed  
2 up, we should be able to increase the services  
3 and, you know, not only maintain what we have but  
4 actually grow the facility to its maximum and  
5 fullest potential.

6 There is that beautiful historic building  
7 that's sitting on the property that used to be a  
8 nursing school, and in this day and age of nursing  
9 shortages, and I mean the projections are very  
10 significant shortages in the future, that would be  
11 a great place to restart or consider restarting a  
12 nursing school, for instance.

13 So there are a lot of exciting things that  
14 one can do if we all align and maintain our  
15 interest in making this community hospital a  
16 significant community asset that it already is,  
17 but we can enhance it and make it financially  
18 self-sustainable.

19 So that is briefly what I am looking at,  
20 hopefully, you know, being the catalyst that makes  
21 it all happen. And with that I'd like to thank  
22 you all for your attention, and I'm happy to  
23 interact with anyone at a later date. Thank you  
24 so much.

1 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: Thank you. If  
2 anyone wishes to speak at this time, please  
3 indicate by pressing, if you're on the phone,  
4 star 3 or by raising your hand.

5 Next we have Reddy Rathnakar Patlola.

6 MR. RATHNAKER PATLOLA: Good morning, my  
7 name is Reddy Rathnakar Patlola. I'm the  
8 president and CEO of Ramco Healthcare Holdings and  
9 applicant of this COE application. I'm happy to  
10 be here with all of you today to tell you a little  
11 bit more about myself and our plans to maintain  
12 service in this community.

13 I came to this country with \$13 in my  
14 pocket and dreams of continuing my education and  
15 living the American dream. My flight to this  
16 country brought me to O'Hare Airport and this  
17 beautiful city of Chicago. Coming from a small  
18 town in India, I was in awe when I saw the tall  
19 buildings and the city's beautiful skyline. I  
20 fell in love with the city.

21 My journey took me to Michigan where I  
22 obtained my master's degree in computer science  
23 and then went on to work in New York City. I've  
24 always been someone who wants to build things, so

1 I embraced my entrepreneurial spirit and started  
2 Ramoco Fuels. I started with a single lease of a  
3 single location, a gas station basically, and I  
4 grew the business to include multiple locations  
5 and eventually became a large energy distributor  
6 on the East Coast.

7 I have been blessed and have had great  
8 success in business. I began to look at  
9 opportunities to be of service to my fellow man.  
10 I am bringing the same commitment to healthcare  
11 and to this undertaking.

12 I've known Dr. Prasad for years, and I've  
13 admired his work from afar. As I evaluated  
14 opportunities to contribute and become involved in  
15 healthcare, I knew he would be a perfect partner.  
16 With his experience in hospital turnarounds, I'm  
17 confident that the together we can improve  
18 operations and continue to serve the community.

19 I firmly believe that healthcare is a  
20 human right. I've had great success in business,  
21 and I'm blessed to have the ability to contribute  
22 to providing, increasing, and improving access to  
23 healthcare. This brings me full circle and allows  
24 me to contribute back to the city that began my

1 American dream. I've been evaluating  
2 opportunities for the last year, and as you just  
3 heard, Chicago has a special place in my heart.  
4 I'm excited for the opportunity to work with  
5 Dr. Prasad in ensuring continued access to  
6 healthcare for this community and maintaining  
7 community charity care for those communities who  
8 need it most. That's why this opportunity makes  
9 the most sense to me.

10 Dr. Prasad is going to be leading  
11 operations, as he is an expert in that area, but  
12 I'm confident that together we can provide quality  
13 and stability that this community deserves. Thank  
14 you for your time.

15 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: Thank you.

16 Next we have Vicki Scaman.

17 MS. MURPHY: April, can you move to Anan  
18 Abu-Taleb as the next speaker in support? We're  
19 going to need to adjust the order a little bit  
20 because we're having some difficulty getting  
21 people logged in.

22 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: Mr. Anan Abu-Taleb,  
23 I'm unmuting you.

24 MR. ABU-TALEB: Thank you. Good morning

1 everybody.

2 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: There's -- I'm  
3 sorry; there's an echo. Is there someone in the  
4 room with you that has their volume up? If so, if  
5 you can please turn it down.

6 MR. ABU-TALEB: Are we okay now?

7 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: There's still an  
8 echo. I'm guessing there's multiple people in the  
9 room with you with computers or something like  
10 that, and that's where it's coming in.

11 MR. ABU-TALEB: Even though I don't know  
12 what I'm doing, I take responsibility. How is  
13 that, better?

14 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: Yes, it's  
15 better. Please proceed.

16 MR. ABU-TALEB: Can you hear me okay now?

17 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: The echo is back  
18 but please proceed.

19 MR. ABU-TALEB: Okay. We're trying to do  
20 everything we can to eliminate that echo but we're  
21 not there yet. Ms. Simmons?

22 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: Yes, please  
23 proceed.

24 MR. ABU-TALEB: Okay. My name is Anan

1 Abu-Taleb, A-n-a-n A-b-u, hyphen, T-a-l-e-b, and  
2 it is with great pleasure that I serve as chairman  
3 of the governing board associated with this  
4 hospital that is essential to our Chicago area  
5 community. I am grateful to the Illinois  
6 legislators who have been a great support to our  
7 hospital. Thank you.

8 West Suburban Medical Center has a long  
9 history of quality care and compassionate service  
10 inside the hospital and outside in the community.  
11 The COVID-19 pandemic presented significant  
12 challenges to our hospital and to hospitals across  
13 the country. Costs went up considerably and the  
14 ability to generate revenue for patient care  
15 declined. Yet West Suburban Hospital physicians  
16 and staff kept caring for our community and for  
17 the patients, and they did a superb job.

18 Today we are together to talk about what  
19 is the future of West Suburban Hospital. The time  
20 has come for a change of ownership for our  
21 hospital. We have opportunity now for leadership  
22 from a smaller team of healthcare executives who  
23 will be based in our community with their eyes on  
24 local issues. The Resilience Healthcare team is

1 committed to joining with us to ensure that the  
2 traditional service and care for our community  
3 continues for years to come. Thank you.

4 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: Thank you.

5 MS. MURPHY: April, this is Anne Murphy.  
6 I think Vicki Scaman is now on, and she would be  
7 our next speaker.

8 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: Thank you. I  
9 will proceed down the list and ask any additional  
10 questions out of the individuals that are on. So  
11 thank you.

12 As stated, if you wish to speak at this  
13 time, please indicate by raising your hand, your  
14 virtual hand, or if you're on the phone, please  
15 indicate by pressing star 3 on the phone.

16 Ms. Scaman, you are unmuted.

17 MS. SCAMAN: Thank you. Good morning. My  
18 name is Vicki Scaman. I proudly serve as village  
19 president of the Village of Oak Park which is home  
20 to West Suburban Medical Center. I'm a long-time  
21 resident of Oak Park with a strong history of  
22 leadership in coalition building around mental  
23 health. I am writing to share my support for the  
24 pending purchase of West Suburban Medical Center by

1 Resilience Healthcare, which is led by Manoj Prasad.

2 I am looking forward to Mr. Prasad to  
3 continue and extend the current collaborative  
4 approach to providing excellent full-service  
5 healthcare to Oak Park and surrounding  
6 communities. That collaborative approach was  
7 initiated by CEO Barbara Martin, and I'm delighted  
8 that she will remain at the helm of West Sub for  
9 the transition ahead.

10 The Village of Oak Park is extremely  
11 grateful to West Sub for recognizing and reacting  
12 to the growing needs of mental health and women's  
13 health programs. Just last month I was honored to  
14 be among more than 80 civic community and business  
15 leaders to attend a celebration and ribbon cutting  
16 for West Suburban's new outpatient behavior health  
17 center. The new center represents an important  
18 step forward in the hospital's commitment to  
19 benefit patients.

20 Looking ahead, the Oak Park Public Health  
21 Department led by Dr. Theresa Chapple will be  
22 reaching out to West Sub to assist in addressing  
23 glaring health disparities for black and brown  
24 communities during the pandemic.

1 West Sub has always held a strong  
2 relationship with the Village in service to our  
3 residents. It is my firm belief that that  
4 relationship will only grow stronger with the  
5 partnership of Resilience Healthcare.

6 Thank you.

7 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: Thank you.

8 Next we have Ms. Catherine Adduci. I  
9 believe I saw that. You are unmuted.

10 MS. ADDUCI: Very good. Can you hear me  
11 okay?

12 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: Yes, we can.  
13 Please proceed.

14 MS. ADDUCI: Good morning, my name is  
15 Cathy Adduci, and I am the village president of  
16 the Village of River Forest, and I am here on  
17 behalf of the Village of River Forest to express  
18 our full support of the sale of West Suburban  
19 Medical Center in Oak Park to their new owners.

20 West Suburban Medical Center is located  
21 within minutes of our village in our neighboring  
22 community of Oak Park. West Suburban also has  
23 medical offices on its outpatient campus in River  
24 Forest, and we are very glad that they are here.

1           The Village welcomed West Suburban's River  
2 Forest campus into our community over 20 years  
3 ago. The hospital and its off-site offices are a  
4 true service to our residents and those living in  
5 the surrounding and greater area suburbs.  
6 Healthcare is a critical issue for the village and  
7 its residents. The availability of high-quality  
8 healthcare is paramount particularly for residents  
9 who wish to age in place.

10           The Village recently welcomed an assisted  
11 living and memory care residence bringing over  
12 125 individuals into our community who need access  
13 to medical services. Access to healthcare  
14 facilities, including West Suburban Medical Center  
15 is a key component of the Village's pledge to  
16 provide older adults access to resources promoting  
17 health and wellness.

18           West Suburban is at a pivotal point in its  
19 long history of service to our community.  
20 Allowing the hospital to be sold will allow for  
21 important healthcare services to continue for our  
22 residents. A change of ownership with a  
23 commitment to further investment in West Suburban  
24 Medical Center aligns with our comprehensive plan

1 and aging-in-place placement. We are in support  
2 of this sale. Thank you.

3 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: Thank you.

4 Next, we have Barbara Martin. Let me see  
5 if I can find Ms. Martin. There you go. You are  
6 unmuted.

7 MS. MARTIN: Okay. Thank you. Good  
8 morning, my name is Barbara Martin, and I'm the  
9 CEO of West Suburban Medical Center, B-a-r-b-a-r-a  
10 M-a-r-t-i-n.

11 We have seen a lot at West Suburban in the  
12 recent years. We've had new owners come along  
13 three years ago. With Pipeline leadership we've  
14 seen expansions in our clinical programs and  
15 upgrades in technology. We saw the COVID pandemic  
16 come along and challenge us in our communities.  
17 Yet the physicians and staff at West Suburban were  
18 undaunted by this challenge, and now we are  
19 planning for another change of ownership to  
20 Resilience Health.

21 My undergraduate degree is in nursing, and  
22 I know what it means to take care of patients at  
23 the bedside. No matter what is happening around  
24 us, our focus is on our patients and great patient

1 care. I served, as many of you know, as the CEO  
2 of another Illinois hospital for 14 years, and  
3 that gave me significant experience in leading  
4 financial turnarounds. I also have experience in  
5 leading a hospital transition from owner to  
6 another. I know how important it is to ensure  
7 leadership stability and keep the community  
8 engaged throughout this process.

9 A year and a half ago I was recruited to  
10 West Suburban. I'm delighted that we have a buyer  
11 whose entire team is interested in our future  
12 success. They will be part of the communities we  
13 serve, and they will invest in our hospital and  
14 help us make West Suburban even better for the  
15 future.

16 Our West Suburban's leaders have met with  
17 the buyer's transition team, and the planning for  
18 a smooth transition is underway as we speak. Our  
19 patients in our larger community will see no  
20 difference in their care, just new owners.

21 As I testify to my support of this change  
22 of ownership, I want to express my gratitude to  
23 Pipeline for its leadership and to Resilience Health  
24 for its interest in our future. I also want to

1 thank our physicians and staff and the community  
2 itself for remaining dedicated to West Suburban  
3 for the benefit of all.

4 Thank you for allowing me to speak.

5 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: Thank you.

6 Next, we have Dr. Scott Levin. You are  
7 unmuted.

8 DR. LEVIN: Good morning, I'm Dr. Scott  
9 Levin, that's spelled S-c-o-t-t L-e-v-i-n, and I  
10 serve as program director for the family medicine  
11 residency program at West Suburban Medical Center  
12 and have done so for the last 17 years. I am also  
13 proud to serve as medical staff president.

14 My beginning at West Suburban was in  
15 1993 after finishing medical school in Boston. I  
16 had ranked the family medicine programs first on  
17 my list and matched here to train, as hundreds did  
18 before and hundreds have done since. Our training  
19 program was founded in 1971. My two daughters now  
20 23 and 20 years old were both born in Room 606.

21 West Suburban Medical Center has served  
22 the diverse community in which it sits for more  
23 than 100 years. You may know that the late  
24 actress Betty White, who died just short of her

1 100th birthday, was born at West Suburban. I'm  
2 not sure if it was Room 606, though.

3 Over the decades healthcare has advanced  
4 in many ways thanks to advances in science and  
5 improvements in patient care delivery. Along the  
6 way West Suburban's physicians and staff have  
7 embraced those changes.

8 It's challenging to serve the community  
9 around us. COVID presented the most recent  
10 challenges, which were significant. Yet over the  
11 years and throughout the pandemic, West Suburban's  
12 commitment to the community has remained  
13 steadfast. We want to be the community hospital  
14 where patients feel safe, expertly cared for, and  
15 listened to with intention. We want to be the  
16 community hospital where physicians and staff can  
17 connect with their why.

18 Another significant change, a change of  
19 ownership is upon us. Resilience Health now  
20 affords us the best chance to continue our mission  
21 and live our values. They will provide leadership  
22 on a smaller local scale. The new owner will  
23 connect more easily to local issues, challenges as  
24 well as opportunities, and allow West Suburban

1 Medical Center to be prepared even better for  
2 whatever comes our way going forward.

3 Thank you for the time to speak.

4 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: Thank you.

5 Again, if anyone wishes to speak at this  
6 time, please indicate by raising your virtual hand  
7 or by pressing star 3 if you're on the phone.

8 And, George, I'm going to ask you if you  
9 see any hands raised to please just chime in or  
10 let me know.

11 MR. ROATE: Will do.

12 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: Thank you.

13 Next, we're going to go to Dr. Paul  
14 Luning. You are unmuted.

15 MR. LUNING: Thank you. I'm Dr. Paul  
16 Luning. I'm a family physician on staff at West  
17 Suburban Medical Center. I currently serve as  
18 vice president of the medical staff. I came to  
19 West Suburban for my residency training 27 years  
20 ago, just a couple years after Dr. Levin,  
21 specifically because of its commitment to and  
22 excellence in training doctors to prepare for  
23 underserved populations.

24 I've been on staff at West Sub for the

1 24 years since residency, and immediately after  
2 residency I joined PCC Community Wellness Center,  
3 which is a Federally Qualified Health Center where  
4 I'm now the chief medical officer. PCC is  
5 headquartered in Oak Park, but in my work at PCC I  
6 provide leadership to a network of 14 health  
7 centers serving Chicago's west and northwest sides  
8 and the near west suburbs.

9 Our mission of PCC is to improve outcomes  
10 for the medically underserved community with  
11 high-quality, affordable, able and accessible  
12 healthcare and support services, and we're  
13 committed to serving the needs of all people in  
14 all stages of life.

15 West Suburban has a similar calling. The  
16 hospital has been an essential community element  
17 for over a century, and that needs to remain for  
18 decades to come. Although our community health  
19 center has had relationships with multiple  
20 doctors, our partnership with West Sub remains the  
21 most productive and caring for the underserved  
22 community on the west side. This neighborhood has  
23 been hurt by the closing of two of its hospitals  
24 over the last several decades, making West Suburban

1 an even more important source of high-quality and  
2 accessible care for communities such as Austin and  
3 Belmont Cragin.

4 Our community needs West Suburban. We  
5 welcome the proposed change of ownership to keep  
6 this hospital going, and we know that with  
7 significant investments in the last few years to  
8 enhance patient care West Suburban is ready for a  
9 new owner to take it to a new level, allowing for  
10 the continued care of a diverse community.

11 Thank you.

12 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: Thank you.

13 Again, if you wish to speak, please  
14 virtually raise your hand, or if you're on the  
15 phone, dial star 3, and that would raise your  
16 hand, as well.

17 Next, we have Darien Marion-Burton, and I  
18 did see that name. You are unmuted.

19 MR. DARIEN MARION-BURTON: Good morning,  
20 my name is Darien Marion-Burton, and I serve as  
21 the board chair for the Oak Park-River Forest  
22 Chamber of Commerce. I grew up in Oak Park, and  
23 I've lived in the area for 25 years. I know  
24 firsthand that West Suburban Medical Center is the

1 hospital for our community.

2 As a child I went to West Suburban to be  
3 treated for my asthma. This treatment continued  
4 for years from birth until later teen-age years.  
5 I remember that West Suburban always had really  
6 nice people who were so caring. I remember my  
7 other family members also being treated at West  
8 Suburban. My sister had her baby there; my  
9 grandmother was helped through two heart attacks  
10 there.

11 West Suburban is vital to the importance  
12 of our family life in the area. Some of us could  
13 choose to go elsewhere, but we choose West Suburban.  
14 Our hospital also provides access to healthcare to  
15 people who otherwise don't receive quality care.  
16 Those are the things that make West Suburban so  
17 special.

18 When I heard about the possibility of  
19 change of ownership, I thought it was fabulous. I  
20 heard that the new owner will be part of our  
21 community with a local focus and actually living  
22 in our villages. I think that shows commitment.

23 West Suburban has been around for decades,  
24 and this hospital is needed now more than ever.

1 With a change of ownership, West Suburban will  
2 seize new opportunities to do new things and serve  
3 our community.

4 Everyone I've talked to throughout the  
5 Chamber and in our community is excited about the  
6 possibility of this change, and I'm excited about  
7 it, too.

8 Thank you so much.

9 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: Thank you.

10 Again, if you wish to speak at this time,  
11 please indicate by pressing star 3 if you're on  
12 the phone or by raising your hand.

13 Dr. Karole Lakota, I am unmuting you.

14 DR. LAKOTA-TREESE: Good morning, I'm  
15 Dr. Karole Lakota-Treese. I'm a family medicine  
16 physician at West Suburban Medical Center. I've  
17 been associated with West Suburban Medical Center  
18 since I did my family medicine residency training  
19 there beginning in 1998. After my three-year  
20 residency training I did a maternal child health  
21 fellowship at West Suburban, and I delivered all  
22 four of my daughters there.

23 I've been employed by PCC Community  
24 Wellness Center, a Federally Qualified Health

1 Center caring for patients on the west side and  
2 near west suburbs of Chicago seeing patients in  
3 the outpatient setting and following them to West  
4 Sub as needed.

5 At West Suburban I am a full-scope family  
6 medicine provider, which means I can provide care  
7 for patients' complete life cycles. I care for  
8 newborns, pediatric patients, adolescents, adults,  
9 geriatric patients, and pregnant patients in both  
10 the outpatient and inpatient settings. When  
11 caring for pregnant patients in the hospital, I  
12 can manage their labor and delivery including if  
13 they need to have a caesarean section. Most  
14 hospitals do not allow family medicine physicians  
15 to be privileged in operative obstetrics but West  
16 Suburban does.

17 At West Suburban I can care for whole  
18 families with each family member's needs being  
19 addressed, and that is important for our patients.  
20 One of the joys of being a family medicine  
21 physician is the variety of patients and cases  
22 that I get to see. Working at an FQHC such as  
23 PCC I'm able to care for patients with all kinds  
24 of backgrounds. This is a privilege that I

1 appreciate and am grateful I can follow their care  
2 as inpatients at West Suburban Medical Center.

3 As we plan for a change of ownership for  
4 West Suburban, this is not the first time that  
5 I've gone through this. I've seen some transitions  
6 go really smoothly and benefit the hospital. For  
7 example, Pipeline brought in the electronic health  
8 record which was long overdue for West Suburban.

9 We now have a new buyer, who I have not  
10 had the opportunity to meet but I have heard  
11 expressed' an interest in our hospital, and I've  
12 heard he's committed to putting money into the  
13 hospital, and I'm certain this will mean some  
14 improved infrastructure and further investment in  
15 the staff who care for our patients.

16 I am hopeful and supportive of the change  
17 of ownership at this time. Thank you.

18 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: Thank you.

19 Again, if you wish to speak, please indicate  
20 by raising your hand or by dialing star 3.

21 Next, we have Reverend Marshall Hatch.

22 REVEREND HATCH: Hello. Yes, this is  
23 Marshall Hatch. Are you ready for me?

24 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: Yes, please

1 proceed. Thank you.

2 REVEREND HATCH: I'm Marshall Hatch,  
3 pastor of New Mount Pilgrim Church here on the  
4 west side. I've been a member of the board of  
5 West Suburban since 2001, as an Austin community  
6 resident for over 30 years, residing just  
7 two blocks from West Suburban Hospital. I have a  
8 very personal interest in the future of the  
9 institution.

10 The hospital has been instrumental in  
11 access to quality healthcare for Austin families.  
12 It has been a city-suburban community building  
13 link bringing people together from diverse  
14 backgrounds and neighborhoods in Chicago, Oak Park,  
15 and River Forest. It has also served as a  
16 significant employer, offering job and career  
17 opportunities for residents from our inner city  
18 community that has faced community economic  
19 development challenges.

20 West Suburban Hospital has seen changes in  
21 ownership over the years, and we invite committed  
22 ownership as community partners to build upon the  
23 rich legacy and unique socioeconomic position of  
24 this institution. Having met the representative

1 of the current interested party, I am hopeful that  
2 we found such a partner.

3 As we prepare to move forward, as a board  
4 member and a community resident and a local pastor  
5 who helps to guide a 30-member organization called  
6 the Leaders Network that spans across the west  
7 corridor, Austin, Oak Park, River Forest, and  
8 Maywood, I pledge and the organization pledges to  
9 work diligently to help build an institutional  
10 board with deep roots in the community and deep  
11 commitment for the long-term well-being of that  
12 institution as a resource for our community.

13 Thank you very much.

14 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: Thank you.

15 Again, if you wish to speak at this time,  
16 please indicate by raising your hand or by  
17 pressing star 3.

18 George, I'm looking for Dr. Monique Brotman.  
19 Do you see that name? Am I overlooking that?

20 MR. ROATE: I am looking down through the  
21 attendees. I do not see -- how is that last name  
22 spelled? B-r-o-a-d-m-a-n?

23 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: B-r-o-t-m-a-n.

24 MR. ROATE: Okay. Monique. I do not see

1 her, ma'am.

2 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: Okay. Thank you.

3 MS. MURPHY: April, it's Anne Murphy.

4 It's my understanding that she is trying to dial  
5 in now.

6 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: Okay. Thank  
7 you, Anne.

8 This is scheduled for a two-hour public  
9 hearing, and we will be on for the duration of  
10 that two hours. So it's my understanding that  
11 there are other individuals that wish to speak.  
12 They would have an opportunity to do so. I  
13 believe she just dialed in.

14 Ms. Brotman, you are unmuted.

15 Dr. Brotman, I am unmuting you.

16 DR. BROTMAN: Hi, good morning.

17 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: Please proceed.

18 DR. BROTMAN: Sure. One second, please.

19 So my name is Dr. Brotman, good morning. Can  
20 everybody hear me?

21 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: Yes, we can.  
22 Please proceed.

23 DR. BROTMAN: Thank you. I'm a board-  
24 certified ob/gyn, and I have been on staff at

1 West Suburban Hospital for the last 12 years. I  
2 am currently the chairman of the Department of  
3 Obstetrics and Gynecology and have had the  
4 pleasure of serving my colleagues and fellows for  
5 the last almost two years.

6 I started off as a labor and delivery nurse  
7 in my career and have proceeded in my education,  
8 working through the ranks and have become what I  
9 am today, which is a full-service generalist  
10 ob/gyn and robotic surgeon.

11 I have enjoyed immensely my time at West  
12 Suburban and hope to continue to do so. I feel  
13 that West Suburban meets the needs and would  
14 support anybody needing care in the community.  
15 They have a choice in healthcare, and they choose  
16 to come to a hospital that supports them with  
17 their various medical conditions, their  
18 pregnancies, their gynecological issues, and it's  
19 been a privilege to be able to take part in that.

20 I think that's all I have.

21 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: Thank you.  
22 Again, this is a two-hour hearing to continue  
23 until noon. If you wish to speak at this time,  
24 please indicate by raising your hand or pressing

1 star 3.

2 (No response.)

3 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: Seeing none at  
4 this time, I will return in a few minutes to see  
5 if there's anyone that wishes to speak.

6 (Recess taken, 10:52 a.m. to 10:59 a.m.)

7 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: This is the  
8 public hearing for Exemption 25-22 and Exemption  
9 26-22 regarding the change of ownership of West  
10 Suburban Medical Center. If you wish to speak at  
11 this time, please indicate by raising your hand or  
12 by dialing star 3 if you're on the phone.

13 (No response.)

14 (Recess taken, 10:59 a.m. to 11:05 a.m.)

15 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: This is the  
16 public hearing for the change of ownership for  
17 West Suburban Medical Center. If you wish to  
18 speak at this time, please indicate by raising  
19 your hand or pressing star 3.

20 (No response.)

21 (Recess taken, 11:06 a.m. to 11:12 a.m.)

22 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: This the public  
23 hearing for the change of ownership of West Suburban  
24 Medical Center. If you wish to speak at this

1 time, please indicate by raising your hand or  
2 pressing star 3 if you're on the phone.

3 (Recess taken, 11:12 a.m. to 11:19 a.m.)

4 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: This is the  
5 public hearing for the change of ownership for  
6 West Suburban Medical Center. If you wish to  
7 speak at this time, please indicate by raising  
8 your hand or if you're on the phone by dialing  
9 star 3.

10 (No response.)

11 (Recess taken, 11:20 a.m. to 11:29 a.m.)

12 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: This is the  
13 public hearing for change of ownership for West  
14 Suburban Medical Center. If you wish to speak at  
15 this time, please indicate by raising your hand or  
16 pressing star 3.

17 (No response.)

18 (Recess taken, 11:30 a.m. to 11:39 a.m.)

19 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: This is the  
20 hearing for West Suburban Medical Center. If you  
21 wish to speak at this time, please indicate by  
22 raising your hand or pressing star 3 on the phone.

23 (No response.)

24 (Recess taken, 11:39 a.m. to 11:46 a.m.)

1 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: This is the  
2 public hearing for West Suburban Medical Center.  
3 If you wish to speak at this time, please indicate  
4 by raising your hand or pressing star 3.

5 (No response.)

6 (Recess taken, 11:46 a.m. to 11:53 a.m.)

7 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: This is the  
8 public hearing for West Suburban Medical Center.  
9 If you wish to speak at this time, please indicate  
10 by raising your hand or pressing star 3.

11 (No response.)

12 (Recess taken, 11:53 a.m. to 11:54 a.m.)

13 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: Ms. Murphy, I am  
14 making Resilience Healthcare a panelist.

15 MR. SILBERMAN: Thank you for that, April.  
16 It's Mark.

17 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: Mr. Silberman,  
18 if you can proceed.

19 MR. SILBERMAN: Thank you. Members of the  
20 staff, members of the Board, members of the  
21 public, my name is Mark Silberman, and I am here  
22 representing Resilience Healthcare.

23 We think today's public hearing and the  
24 community meetings that we have been participating

1 in have been incredibly helpful to the long-term  
2 success of this project. We fully understand that  
3 a degree of tension and, you know, concerns about  
4 less than ideal communication have existed in the  
5 past between Pipeline and the community to which  
6 it was providing care, but importantly the focus  
7 of the concerns about which we've heard do not  
8 relate to the provision of care. And addressing the  
9 challenges of communication, and efficiency, and  
10 commitment to the community are what this project  
11 is all about.

12 We are committed to providing healthcare.  
13 More than that, we're committed to improving  
14 healthcare, both access and quality. Part of that  
15 will be accomplished by providing stability to the  
16 hospital, something that this community truly  
17 needs and more importantly desires. This project  
18 is rooted in life experiences that see access to  
19 healthcare as a fundamental right, and we are  
20 committed to facilitating that.

21 We cannot promise that there will not be  
22 bumps in the road, but we can assure you of the  
23 commitment and the capability to see this succeed,  
24 and in doing so we will provide the improved access

1 to care to a community that not only needs it but  
2 a community that deserves it.

3 We thank you for the opportunity to be heard  
4 today, and we look forward to the opportunity to  
5 appear before the Board.

6 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: Thank you.

7 MS. MURPHY: April, this is Anne Murphy.  
8 I would like to make a brief remark at this time  
9 if I could.

10 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: Sure. Please  
11 proceed.

12 MS. MURPHY: Thank you. I want to echo  
13 the sentiments from buyer's counsel thanking the  
14 Board staff and all of those who presented today  
15 and want to emphasize that all of the comments we  
16 heard today were positive both in terms of the  
17 hospital and in terms of the prospective buyer and  
18 the seller, Pipeline. We appreciate your time and  
19 thank you once again.

20 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: Thank you. If  
21 the record could reflect that the time is now  
22 11:57, there has been a decrease in the attendees,  
23 and the attendees that have been on for the past  
24 10 minutes has remained the same.

1           Please note that this project is scheduled  
2           for consideration by the Board at its June 7, 2022,  
3           meeting. The State Board meeting will be held  
4           virtually beginning at 9:00 a.m. Please refer to  
5           the State Board's website for the link to the  
6           State Board meeting.

7           The public has until May 18 to submit signed  
8           written comments pertaining to this project.  
9           Comments should be sent to the attention of the  
10          Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review  
11          Board, 525 West Jefferson Street, Second Floor,  
12          Springfield, Illinois 62761.

13          The State Board will post its findings in  
14          the State Board staff report. The report will be  
15          made available on May 24th, 2022. The public may  
16          submit written responses to errors in the findings  
17          of the Board staff to the Illinois Health  
18          Facilities and Services Review Board. The public  
19          will have until 9:00 a.m. on May 31st, 2022, to  
20          submit written responses to the content of the  
21          report findings. The aforementioned report and  
22          additional information can be accessed on the  
23          Board's website.

24          Seeing that there are no additional hands

1 raised or comments -- Anne Murphy, I see that your  
2 hand was raised. Was that already up or was that  
3 an accident?

4 MS. MURPHY: I think I raised it before,  
5 so you can ignore it.

6 HEARING OFFICER SIMMONS: Okay. Seeing  
7 that there are no other hands raised and no  
8 additional comments, I deem this public hearing  
9 adjourned. Thank you for participating in today's  
10 proceedings.

11 (Off the record at 12:00 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF SHORTHAND REPORTER

I, Paula M. Quetsch, Certified Shorthand Reporter No. 084-003733, CSR, RPR, and a Notary Public in and for the County of Kane, State of Illinois, the officer before whom the foregoing proceedings were taken, do certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and correct record of the proceedings, that said proceedings were taken by me stenographically and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my supervision, 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 14th day of April, 2022.

My commission expires: October 16, 2025



\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public in and for the  
State of Illinois