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Transcript of Public Hearing

Date: June 12, 2023

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 GEORGE ROATE

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IN RE: :
Public Hearing :
Regarding Two Changes : Project Nos.
of Ownership: Vista : E-017-23
Medical Center & : E-018-23
Lindenhurst :
Freestanding :
Emergency Center. :

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PUBLIC HEARING
in Accordance with Requirements of the
Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act
Waukegan, Illinois
Monday, June 12, 2023
1:04 p.m.

Job No.: 495146
Pages: 1 - 12
Reported By: Courtney Petros, RPR, CSR

1 Public Hearing, held at:

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4 Genesee Theatre Lounge
5 203 North Genesee Street
6 Waukegan, IL 60085
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11 Before Courtney Petros, a Certified Shorthand
12 Reporter and Registered Professional Reporter in
13 and for the State of Illinois.
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A P P E A R A N C E S

PRESENT:

ILLINOIS HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES

REVIEW BOARD, by

GEORGE ROATE, CON Reviewer

JOHN KNIERY, Administrator

Transcript of Public Hearing
Conducted on June 12, 2023

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

2 MR. ROATE: Good afternoon. My name is
3 George Roate. I am accompanied by Mr. John
4 Kniery, administrator of the Illinois Health
5 Facilities and Services Review Board. We are from
6 the Illinois Department of Public Health. And we,
7 once again, represent the Illinois Health
8 Facilities and Services Review Board.

9 We are here to conduct a public hearing on
10 the proposed projects known as Exemption E-017-23,
11 Vista Medical Center East, and E-018-23,
12 Lindenhurst Freestanding Emergency Center.

13 As per the rules of the Illinois Health
14 Facilities and Services Review Board, I would like
15 to read the legal notice into the record.

16 AHS Vista, LLC is purchasing 100 percent
17 of the Waukegan Hospital Corporation. Waukegan
18 Illinois Hospital Company, LLC owns and operates
19 both Vista Medical Center East in Waukegan and the
20 Lindenhurst Freestanding Emergency Center in
21 Lindenhurst. The total transaction price is
22 \$23.5 million.

23 The applicants are Waukegan Illinois
24 Hospital Company, LLC doing business as Vista

1 Medical Center East, Waukegan Illinois Hospital
2 Company, LLC doing business as Lindenhurst
3 Freestanding Emergency Center, Quorum Health
4 Corporation, Quincy Health, LLC, AHS Vista, LLC,
5 and American Healthcare Systems Corporation,
6 Incorporated.

7 A public hearing will take place pursuant
8 to 20 ILCS 3960. The hearing is scheduled for
9 Monday, June 12th at 1:00 p.m. at the Genesee
10 Theatre. 203 Genesee Street, Waukegan.

11 The public hearing is to be held by the
12 Illinois Department of Public Health pursuant to
13 the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act. The
14 hearing is open to the public and will afford an
15 opportunity for parties with interest to present
16 written and/or verbal comment relevant to the
17 project. All allegations or assertions should be
18 relevant to the need for the proposed project and
19 be supported with two copies of documentation or
20 materials that are printed or typed on paper, size
21 8.5 by 11 inches.

22 Consideration by the State Board has been
23 tentatively scheduled for the June 27th, 2023,
24 Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review

1 Board meeting.

2 If you have not done so, please sign in
3 using the appropriate registration forms. I
4 believe we have everybody signed in today.

5 To ensure that the Illinois Health
6 Facilities and Services Review Board's public
7 hearings protect the privacy and maintain the
8 confidentiality of an individual's health
9 information, covered entities, as defined by the
10 Health Insurance Portability Act of 1996, such as
11 facilities, hospital providers, health plans,
12 health care clearinghouses, submitting oral or
13 written testimony that discloses protected health
14 information of individuals shall have a valid
15 written authorization from that individual. The
16 authorization shall allow the covered entity to
17 share the individual's protected health
18 information.

19 Those who have come with prepared text for
20 the presentation may choose to submit the text
21 without giving testimony. And we will -- because
22 we're such a small meeting today, we'll have no
23 limit as to length of presentation.

24 If there is a chief spokesperson for the

1 Applicant, we would like that individual to make
2 the first presentation. The remaining testimony
3 will be taken in the order of the names on the
4 registers. Please hold any questions until all
5 testimony is presented.

6 And my notes indicate Mr. Jon Rozenfeld is
7 here today to speak on behalf of the Applicant.

8 MR. ROZENFELD: Good afternoon. My name
9 is Jon Rozenfeld. I'm the CEO of Vista Medical
10 Center East in Waukegan. The hospital is
11 indirectly owned by Quorum Health Corporation
12 through its subsidiary Waukegan Hospital
13 Corporation, which owns the hospital as well as
14 the Lindenhurst Freestanding Emergency Center.

15 Quorum proposes to sell 100 percent of the
16 shares of Waukegan Hospital Corporation to AHS
17 Vista, LLC, whose parent company is American
18 Healthcare Systems Corporation, Incorporated. The
19 total transaction price is 23.5 million of which
20 22.25 million is allocated to the Vista Medical
21 Center East and 1.25 million allocated to the
22 Freestanding Emergency Center.

23 The transaction will not result in the
24 issuance of a license to an entity different from

1 the current licensee. The current licensee at
2 both the hospital and the Freestanding Emergency
3 Center is Waukegan Illinois Hospital Corporation,
4 LLC, which will remain the licensee post closing.

5 American Healthcare Systems recently
6 acquired two health care facilities with the
7 approval of the Health Facilities and Services
8 Review Board. Those facilities are Gateway
9 Regional Medical Center in Granite City and
10 Edwardsville Ambulatory Surgery Center in Glen
11 Carbon. The transaction approved in those two
12 projects closed effective March 1, 2023.

13 As set forth in the change of ownership
14 application filed with the Review Board for the
15 Vista facilities, American Healthcare Systems has
16 represented that it anticipates retaining the
17 existing scope of services that are currently
18 being provided and that the current selection
19 process for the hospital's core governing body
20 will remain the same.

21 I thank the Board, the Review Board, and
22 its staff for accommodating the public hearing
23 request so as to allow the application to be heard
24 at the Board's June 27th meeting. Thank you.

1 MR. ROATE: Thank you, sir.

2 Now, being the small venue that we're
3 thankful to have today, I have two other
4 individuals who have signed in. I'll just go
5 ahead and read the names off and give you an
6 opportunity to speak. As said earlier, that is
7 entirely up to you whether you choose to speak or
8 not. Mr. Vukovich.

9 MR. VUKOVICH: No.

10 MR. ROATE: You choose not to speak.

11 Okay. Thank you, sir.

12 Jean. You choose not to speak. Okay.

13 Thank you.

14 Mr. Lawler, do you wish to speak?

15 MR. LAWLER: No, sir. Not speaking.

16 MR. ROATE: Okay. You're making my job
17 too easy here today.

18 Is there anybody -- any questions? If
19 there are none, I'll go into my conclusion. And
20 I'll ask the question again.

21 Is there anyone who wishes to testify that
22 has not had an opportunity?

23 (No response.)

24 MR. ROATE: Seeing none, is there anyone

1 who has testified who wishes to provide additional
2 testimony?

3 (No response.)

4 MR. ROATE: Okay. I would remind everyone
5 to submit your written comments to us so that we
6 have this information for record.

7 Also, this project is scheduled for
8 consideration by the Illinois Health Facilities
9 and Services Review Board at its June 27th, 2023,
10 meeting, which will be held at the Bolingbrook
11 Golf Club, 2001 Rodeo Drive in Bolingbrook,
12 Illinois.

13 The public has until June 20th to submit
14 written comments. These comments can be sent to
15 my attention at the Illinois Health Facilities and
16 Services Review Board care of the Illinois
17 Department of Public Health, 525 West Jefferson
18 Street, Second Floor, Springfield, Illinois 62761.
19 If you prefer, you may fax your comments. Our fax
20 number is 217-785-4111.

21 Are there any questions?

22 (No response.)

23 MR. ROATE: Seeing that there are no
24 additional questions or comments, I deem this

1 public hearing adjourned. Thank you.

2 (Off the record at 1:13 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF SHORTHAND REPORTER

I, Courtney Petros, Registered Professional Reporter and Certified Shorthand Reporter, the officer before whom the foregoing proceeding was taken, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and correct record of the testimony given; that said testimony was taken by me and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that reading and signing was not requested; 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 signed this 12th day of June, 2023.



COURTNEY PETROS, RPR, CSR