

ILLINOIS HEALTH FACILITIES  
AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD  
PUBLIC HEARING

IN RE: NORTHPOINTE NEIGHBORHOOD HOSPITAL

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had at the hearing in  
the above-entitled cause before MR. GEORGE ROATE,  
Hearing Officer, in the Board Council Room, Village of  
Roscoe, Illinois, on August 13th, 2024, commencing at  
1:00 p.m.

1 MR. ROATE: Good afternoon. My name is George  
 2 Roate. I'm accompanied by Mr. John Kniery, Board  
 3 Administrator, Ms. Blanca Dominguez, Board Legal  
 4 Counsel, and Ms. Sherrie Ryan, Operations Manager. We  
 5 are from the Illinois Department of Public Health and  
 6 represent the Illinois Health Facilities and Services  
 7 Review Board.

8 We are here to conduct a public hearing on the  
 9 proposed project known as Project 24-018, NorthPointe  
 10 Neighborhood Hospital, Roscoe. As per the rules of the  
 11 Illinois Health facilities And Services Review Board, I  
 12 would like to read the legal notice into the record.

13 In accordance with the requirements of the  
 14 Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act, notice is given  
 15 of receipt of a request for a public hearing for project  
 16 24-018 NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital, to establish a  
 17 10-bed small format hospital located at 5605 East  
 18 Rockton Road, Roscoe, Illinois. Project cost,  
 19 \$20,760,312.

20 The public hearing will be conducted by the  
 21 staff of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services  
 22 Review Board. On Tuesday, August 13th, beginning at  
 23 1:30 p.m., the Roscoe Township Community Center, Roscoe,  
 24 Illinois.

1 defined by the Health Insurance Portability Act of 1996  
 2 such as facilities, hospital providers, health plans,  
 3 and health care clearinghouses submitting oral or  
 4 written testimony that discloses protected health  
 5 information of individuals shall have a valid written  
 6 authorization from that individual. The authorization  
 7 shall allow the covered entity share the individual's  
 8 protected health information at this hearing.

9 Those of you who came with prepared text for  
 10 your presentation may choose to submit that text without  
 11 giving testimony. However, if you are giving oral  
 12 testimony, please be as brief as possible. Due to the  
 13 number of individuals we have at the hearing today who  
 14 have expressed an interest in providing testimony, we  
 15 must limit each oral presentation to two minutes.

16 As per the legal notice, I'd appreciate two  
 17 copies of your testimony. When you make your  
 18 presentation, please give the court reporter the  
 19 spelling of your complete name.

20 If there is a chief spokesperson for the  
 21 applicant, we would like that individual to make the  
 22 first presentation. The remaining testimony will be  
 23 taken in the order of the names on the registers.  
 24 Please hold your questions until all the testimony is

1 The public hearing is to be held by the  
 2 Illinois Department of Public Health pursuant to the  
 3 Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act. The hearing is  
 4 open to the public and will afford an opportunity for  
 5 parties with interest to present written and/or verbal  
 6 comment relevant to the project.

7 All allegations or assertions should be  
 8 relevant to the need for the proposed project and be  
 9 supported with two copies of documentation or materials  
 10 that are printed or typed on paper size 8 1/2 by 11  
 11 inches.

12 Consideration by the State Board has been  
 13 tentatively scheduled for the October 29, 2024 Illinois  
 14 Health Facilities and Services Review Board meeting. If  
 15 you have not done so, please sign in using the  
 16 appropriate registration forms. One form is for  
 17 individuals who want to provide testimony in favor or  
 18 opposition to the project. The other form is for  
 19 individuals to register their attendance who do not wish  
 20 to testify.

21 To insure that the Illinois Health Facilities  
 22 and Services Review Board's public hearings protect  
 23 privacy and maintain the confidentiality of an  
 24 individual's health information, covered entities as

1 presented. And we'll call our first speaker shortly.

2 First, the Board would like to call  
 3 Mr. Tim McKeVitt.

4 MR. McKEVITT: Good afternoon. My name is Tim  
 5 McKeVitt, and I've had the honor of being employed by  
 6 Beloit Health System 39 years, the last 10 as its  
 7 President and CEO.

8 I would like to thank the Illinois Health  
 9 Facilities and Services Review Board and the staff for  
 10 the opportunity to present our project and how it will  
 11 benefit the Stalene Community.

12 Beloit Health System is a not-for-profit  
 13 community health system. We are one of the largest  
 14 employers in the Stalene area, employing over 1,600  
 15 individuals. We are the only LeapFrog A rated safety  
 16 and quality organization in the region, including  
 17 Rockford, Janesville, and Madison, Wisconsin.

18 Beloit Health System owns and operates the  
 19 NorthPointe Health and Wellness campus. Beloit Health  
 20 System has been serving the Illinois Stalene community  
 21 in South Beloit, Roscoe, Rockton. And when combined,  
 22 the population now is 45,000. That is bigger than  
 23 Beloit. That supports our hospital that is six times  
 24 the size.

1 So the community deserves its own hospital.  
2 Beloit Memorial has been serving the community and it  
3 was serving it when it opened as a municipal hospital in  
4 1928. That is almost 100 years.

5 We established a physical presence in the  
6 market when we opened our South Beloit Clinic in 1988  
7 providing primary care services for a total of 33 years  
8 out of that -- 36 years at our location. We expanded  
9 with the Roscoe/Rockton Medical Center in 1991, and  
10 operated that for 16 years until we transitioned the  
11 care when we opened up the NorthPointe Health and  
12 Wellness campus 17 years ago after due consideration by  
13 the Illinois Health and Services Review Board at their  
14 January 23rd, 2006 meeting.

15 The NorthPointe Health and Wellness campus, of  
16 course, offers primary and specialty care. We have 25  
17 providers that are providing that care. Full diagnostic  
18 services including lab, imaging including CT and MRI,  
19 occupational health with close to 250 occupational  
20 health clients in the State of Illinois, a lot of whom  
21 have third-shift operation. Physical therapy, a  
22 medically integrated wellness/fitness center with 3,500  
23 active members, an Immediate Care that is open 12 hours  
24 a day that has 11,500 visits, 24 senior assisted living

1 service those patients locally, close to their home,  
2 involving their family, their friends with help in the  
3 healing process. So bringing that care close to home  
4 will definitely enhance the care.

5 The facility will provide lower acuity  
6 inpatient care. The creation of these beds will allow  
7 us at the main hospital back in Beloit to go to all  
8 private suites which is what our patients, their  
9 families, and our staff deserve.

10 This will improve access to lifesaving  
11 emergency care. The new NorthPointe Neighborhood  
12 Hospital will convert its existing Immediate Care to 24  
13 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year emergency  
14 services. Already our Immediate Care is provided by  
15 board certified emergency room physicians, specialists  
16 12 hours a day, and this coverage will simply increase  
17 to 24 hours a day all year around.

18 This will help save lives by having quicker  
19 response times in the EMS services and the ambulances to  
20 the emergency room at the NorthPoint Neighborhood  
21 Hospital, in some cases saving upwards of 10 minutes on  
22 a transfer from locally or less to going down to --  
23 either going to up to Beloit or going down to Rockford.  
24 And those 10 minutes will save lives. Every second

1 apartments, and ambulatory surgery center that received  
2 CON approval in 2015, and opened for business in 2017.

3 And most recently, I'm very happy and proud to  
4 say that we opened up a one-of-a-kind unique service for  
5 our free-standing birth center that received CON  
6 approval in 2021, and open up in early 2024. We are  
7 happy to have the first baby that was born at the birth  
8 center with us today. In total, we have 200 employees  
9 at our NorthPoint Health and Wellness campus.

10 We are proposing and asking for approval for a  
11 Certificate of Need to establish a 10-bed neighborhood  
12 hospital to better serve the Stateline community on our  
13 NorthPointe Health and Wellness campus.

14 We believe this project will enhance care,  
15 improve access to life saving emergency care, and have  
16 minimal impact on existing providers.

17 It will enhance care. This morning when I  
18 went up and did rounds on the inpatient units, and it  
19 proves out throughout the year we have 20 percent of our  
20 patients on an inpatient basis are residents of South  
21 Beloit, Roscoe, and Rockton. That equates to about  
22 eight to 12 patients.

23 So by creating this new community neighborhood  
24 hospital that has 10 beds, we'll be better able to

1 counts in an emergency situation.

2 You keep ambulances in the community.  
3 Previously when you go down to either Rockford or go up  
4 to Beloit, it can be up to an hour turnaround time for  
5 the ambulance. Now coming to -- coming to the new  
6 Neighborhood Hospital at NorthPointe, it can be -- that  
7 will save close to a half hour to an hour for each  
8 ambulance run, keeping those ambulances in the community  
9 better serving its citizens.

10 The new year we will also serve the Medicaid  
11 and uninsured patients, and will have a minimum impact  
12 on existing providers. We are already seeing these  
13 patients. These are patients as of this morning that I  
14 went up and saw as part of our inpatient. So creating  
15 the hospital down here and transferring those patients  
16 downs here won't have an impact on the hospitals or the  
17 oppositions.

18 Other things to consider from an opposition  
19 issue, there is state precedent. Mercy Hospital  
20 established a similar facility in Crystal Lake, and  
21 Quincy Medical Group established a similar facility down  
22 in Quincy, Illinois.

23 We find it somewhat disingenuous us that Mercy  
24 has opposed this project when they built this same type

1 of facility in Crystal Lake, and they see the benefits  
 2 of what it did for that community.  
 3 Also, Illinois Medicaid Managed Care Options,  
 4 when Mercy dropped their participation in several  
 5 Illinois Medicaid Managed Care Networks, NorthPointe  
 6 Beloit Health System did not. We knew these people  
 7 needed access to care. We continue to provide that, and  
 8 will be providing that same service and that access at  
 9 the new neighborhood hospital.  
 10 As discussed, the scope of the project is the  
 11 creation of a 10-bed inpatient unit in existing shell  
 12 space in the hospital, to modernize the immediate care  
 13 to emergency room space, and add a 4,200 square feet  
 14 addition to the emergency room, about 1,800 in garage  
 15 space. The total project cost is \$20,760,312.  
 16 Other benefits quickly. Cost effectiveness  
 17 and ease of conversion. We already have the staff in  
 18 place. A lot of the infrastructure. A lot of the  
 19 mechanicals are all in place to be able to create this.  
 20 The staff qualifications. These same staff  
 21 are providing the care up at our main hospital. The ER  
 22 doctors, and the lab techs, they are also working in our  
 23 hospital, so it is an easy conversion. And we have the  
 24 support departments in place. Full lab, full x-ray,

1 the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
 2 and everyone who took the time to be here today. My  
 3 name is Sonya Hoppes. I'm the City Administrator for  
 4 the City of South Beloit.  
 5 I was born and raised in South Beloit, and I'm  
 6 proud to be here today to speak on behalf of my family's  
 7 support for the planned neighborhood hospital.  
 8 I want to highlight the support from the  
 9 Village of Rockton and the Village of Roscoe, and also  
 10 the city of South Beloit for the proposed NorthPointe  
 11 Neighborhood Hospital. We all agree that it is  
 12 important for the development and the vitality of our  
 13 communities. These three communities together are the  
 14 Northern Illinois element of the Stateline community,  
 15 which also encompasses nearby Wisconsin communities.  
 16 I care deeply about our city and about our  
 17 region, and I want what is best for people who live  
 18 here. South Beloit has suffered economic hardships over  
 19 the last 12 percent -- with over 12 percent of the  
 20 population living below the federal poverty limit, and  
 21 65 percent of our students qualifying for free or  
 22 reduced lunches.  
 23 It is important to recognize the way that  
 24 South Beloit is unique. We appreciate and value the

1 physical therapy, pharmacy, and surgery.  
 2 Patient access and choice of care for safety  
 3 net. We will hold ourselves to the federal EMTALA  
 4 standards, and we will treat patients regardless of  
 5 their ability to pay. We'll see Illinois Medicaid  
 6 patients, as previously mentioned, or Managed Care  
 7 Choice for our community and the residents in the  
 8 Stateline community.  
 9 It will improve access to law enforcement.  
 10 Not only the ER beds, but the police officers, when they  
 11 come and they do medical clearing exams, DUI, post  
 12 accidents.  
 13 It will create 30 new jobs at the NorthPointe  
 14 campus, and 50 new construction jobs throughout the  
 15 construction process.  
 16 We have very strong community support. I see  
 17 a lot of familiar faces out here. We do appreciate it.  
 18 We have leadership in the Roscoe/Rockton/South Beloit  
 19 supporting the project. EMS, fire, and police support.  
 20 For these reasons, we ask the Board to approve  
 21 the project and issue a Certificate of Need. Thank you.  
 22 MR. ROATE: Next, the Board would like to call  
 23 Sonya Hoppes.  
 24 MS. HOPPES: Good afternoon, everyone. Especially

1 services provided to South Beloit by the Beloit Health  
 2 System.  
 3 At work every day we work hard to make sure  
 4 that the services that are available are coordinated for  
 5 our local families, and that they have accesses to our  
 6 resources. We are trying now to grow and attract even  
 7 more development and opportunity. We support the  
 8 opportunity -- we support the project for helping us  
 9 reach these goals.  
 10 During construction, Tim mentioned that there  
 11 will be 50 construction jobs, 30 of those permanent.  
 12 Local opportunities like these are exactly what we are  
 13 striving for.  
 14 An important aspect of this project is that  
 15 the planned hospital will provide 24-hour care to the  
 16 most vulnerable members of our community that lack  
 17 access to transportation and have difficulty finding  
 18 someone that can drive them 30 minutes to one of the  
 19 Rockford area hospitals.  
 20 Just because we reside near roads and highways  
 21 doesn't mean that everyone has the same access and  
 22 opportunity for travel. Having to travel out of the  
 23 area is not always easy to do, and I know that it is  
 24 hard when you can't easily access care. It is also

1 difficult when you have a family member that is getting  
2 care, because you can't easily visit them or pick them  
3 up. These are very real concerns for South Beloit  
4 residents.

5 Finally, this neighborhood hospital will  
6 improve the quality of life in our community. When  
7 people can get close care to where they live, they may  
8 better be able to get the care and also have better  
9 health.

10 I want the residents of the city of South  
11 Beloit to have every opportunity, and that includes the  
12 excellent care and specialty doctors that this campus  
13 can offer.

14 I ask that you please approve the NorthPointe  
15 Neighborhood Hospital for my neighborhood and my  
16 neighbors in South Beloit.

17 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

18 Next, the Board would like to call Kim Scace,  
19 S-c-a-c-e, speaking for Senator Chesney.

20 MS. SCACE: Hi. My name is Kim Scace. I am here  
21 on behalf of State Senator Andrew Chesney. He's  
22 disappointed that he could not be here today to  
23 personally share his support of the NorthPointe  
24 Neighborhood Hospital. He provided me with his

1 I believe health outcomes will improve if we  
2 allow the campus to accept ambulances at an emergency  
3 room and provide comprehensive emergency care in the  
4 same location.

5 The project plan is impressive, and it is  
6 supported by extensive resources. I believe it will  
7 attract more doctors, more investment, and more  
8 opportunity for this area.

9 Finally, it is important to me that I  
10 represent the people in this district who are here today  
11 asking for this project to be approved. We should not  
12 let this opportunity pass us by.

13 Please allow the NorthPointe Neighborhood  
14 Hospital to move forward. Thank you.

15 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

16 Next, Board staff would like to call State  
17 Representative John Cabello.

18 MS. GRIGOROFF: Good afternoon. My name is Shelly  
19 Grigoroff, and I am Chief of Staff in the office of  
20 State Representative John Cabello. He is in strong  
21 support of this project, and he asked me to read this on  
22 his behalf.

23 Dear Illinois Health Facilities and Services  
24 Review Board members, and member of these great

1 supportive comments, and asked me to read them.

2 Good afternoon members of the Board and all  
3 attendees at today's hearing. My name is Andrew  
4 Chesney, and I am this area's State Senator. I wanted  
5 to make sure my support of the NorthPointe Neighborhood  
6 Hospital was registered at today's public hearing and  
7 that it becomes part of the official record. I am sorry  
8 I could not be here in person.

9 I represent more than 200,000 people in the  
10 45th Senate District, many of whom live along the state  
11 line. I work hard to make sure their voices are heard,  
12 as they want a safe and good place to live, work, and  
13 raise a family.

14 As a small business owner, I know how  
15 important economic development and opportunity is for  
16 many people who live in small towns in our area. And I  
17 support consumer choice and a healthy competitive  
18 market.

19 I'm glad the Beloit Health System is willing  
20 to invest millions of dollars to continue expanding  
21 their local campus in our district for the betterment of  
22 the people who live here. We have clearly seen that  
23 local residents want access to doctors and to specialty  
24 care of all types at the NorthPointe campus.

1 communities, my name is John Cabello, and I represent  
2 the 90th District in the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives.

4 As a police officer of over 30 years, I am  
5 proud to serve my community. I use my knowledge and  
6 experience to be the ranking member of my party on both  
7 the House Public Safety-Appropriation Committee and on  
8 the House Police & Fire Committee.

9 The safety and security of our communities is  
10 of the utmost importance to me, and that is why I'm in  
11 strong support of the NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital  
12 project. I truly believe that having access to an  
13 emergency room directly in town will save lives.

14 To me, the decision of whether to approve this  
15 facility should be based on what is best for the  
16 families that live here. Not on what is happening or  
17 who spends what in other communities. The truth is that  
18 every minute less that a member of Rockton, Roscoe, or  
19 South Beloit communities has to travel to get emergency  
20 care is a better chance at their lives being saved or  
21 their health improving.

22 I served as a police officer in South Beloit,  
23 and I know these communities well. We should not have  
24 to send individuals in need up to Wisconsin or south by

1 another 20 to 30 minutes if we have the resources to  
2 meet the need here at home. When someone calls 9-1-1, I  
3 know what it is to answer that call. Families should  
4 not have to sit and wait for emergency care while our  
5 ambulances are tied up making longer round-trips, drives  
6 out of the area.

7 At the same time, any individual in need  
8 preserves the right to decide what hospital or hospital  
9 system they choose to utilize. That is important.

10 The NorthPointe complex is already doing a lot  
11 of good work here, and many people are getting good care  
12 close to home. I want to see more of that. This micro  
13 hospital concept is appropriately sized for the region's  
14 needs and certainly small enough to not unduly impact  
15 hospitals from other regions.

16 It is my opinion that we should support this  
17 investment in our communities and their health and  
18 safety. I ask that you join me and the more than 1,000  
19 people who have signed petitions and letters in support  
20 and approve this proposal. Please listen to the people  
21 who live here. It is their lives and health at stake.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

24 Next, the Board would like to call Mr. Todd

1 East, and to Afghan in 2001.

2 Rockton is the neighboring town up the river  
3 from Roscoe. I know I'm among many Stateline community  
4 residents who enthusiastically support the plans for the  
5 NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital.

6 Over time, I have led the department in DUI  
7 arrests and received several certificates of  
8 appreciation from the Alliance Against Intoxicated  
9 Motorists. I have also received the HERO award from  
10 Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

11 Stopping people who drive under the influence  
12 of drugs and alcohol and taking them off the road, and  
13 sending them to treatment when possible is a step toward  
14 reducing the people who will require hospitalization or  
15 may not survive an accident with an impaired driver.

16 But when we arrest a driver who is suspected  
17 of driving while impaired, officers often find  
18 themselves needing to go to a hospital emergency  
19 department for clinical testing such as a blood test to  
20 determine a blood alcohol concentration.

21 These duties often take us well away from our  
22 communities because the testing cannot be performed at  
23 the police station and because there's not a nearby  
24 hospital. We also deal with suspects who have physical

1 Anderson.

2 MR. ANDERSON: My name is Todd Anderson. I am a  
3 resident of Roscoe, Illinois.

4 I am concerned that the small NorthPointe  
5 Hospital may not be able to care for complex issues,  
6 which will lead to a delay in care and getting the care  
7 my family may need in an emergency.

8 How does my family know what illnesses and  
9 injury I can go to them for, and which illnesses or  
10 injury I need to go to a larger hospital with a trauma  
11 center?

12 This uncertainty about the hospital's  
13 capability makes me concerned about relying on the small  
14 NorthPointe Hospital in an emergency. Thank you.

15 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

16 Next, the Board would like to call Mr. Justin  
17 Jobst. Police Chief Jobst.

18 MR. JOBST: Good afternoon, and thank you for  
19 attending this hearing. My name is Justin Jobst,  
20 J-o-b-s-t. I am a Deputy Police Chief for the Village  
21 of Rockton. I've been with the Village of Rockton for  
22 over 21 years.

23 Prior to that 20 years of service, I also was  
24 United States Navy. I was deployed twice in 1998 Middle

1 or medical issues and must be seen by a licensed  
2 physician or medically cleared prior to being taken to  
3 jail.

4 Again, we are usually forced to travel to  
5 Rockford. The testing is relatively simple, but cannot  
6 be delayed. Depending on the circumstances, these  
7 hospital trips can take more than two hours, which is  
8 two hours away from our communities and reducing our  
9 abilities to provide a safe community.

10 Having an emergency department at Roscoe will  
11 reduce travel time and keep officers on the streets in  
12 our respective cities and villages.

13 Please approve the NorthPointe Neighborhood  
14 Hospital. Thank you.

15 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

16 Next, the Board would like to call Anna Eich.

17 MS. EICH: Good afternoon. Anna Eich, A-n-n-a  
18 E-i-c-h. I do not think we need another hospital in our  
19 area. We already have several well-established  
20 facilities nearby. Adding another hospital would lead  
21 to competing priorities for our healthcare teams, for  
22 physicians, and nurses who are already being asked to  
23 provide care with inadequate resources.

24 We should instead focus on improving and

1 supporting our existing hospitals to insure they meet  
2 the needs of our area residents. Thank you.

3 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

4 Next, the Board would like to call Mr. Ken --  
5 Dr. Ken Klein.

6 MR. KLEIN: Good afternoon. I am Dr. Ken Klein,  
7 K-l-e-i-n, board certified non-surgical orthopedist with  
8 over 30 years at this health system where I also serve  
9 on the Board of Directors.

10 I fully support the establishment of the  
11 NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital and the benefits it  
12 will bring to the Stateline community. At Beloit Health  
13 System, we prioritize treating each patient like family  
14 and delivering exceptional care.

15 Over the years, we have developed a  
16 comprehensive orthopedic and sports medicine program  
17 that includes evaluation, diagnosis, integrative  
18 treatment, therapy, and surgical care.

19 Our pain management strategy, guided by  
20 federal studies, emphasizes a multi-faceted approach  
21 focusing on mood management, physical therapy, yoga,  
22 meditation, while minimizing opioid use and opting for  
23 minimally invasive surgeries.

24 The NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital

1 represents a significant investment in our community,  
2 enabling low-acuity inpatient services closer to home.  
3 This will reduce travel times for families, facilitating  
4 their involvement in patient care, which is vital for  
5 recovery.

6 Additionally, the hospital will enhance  
7 primary care access in the Stateline area and address  
8 challenges related to timely care. It will also support  
9 physician recruitment, provide access to advanced  
10 technology, and foster collaboration among medical  
11 disciplines.

12 Finally, a full-service emergency department  
13 will ease the strain on our current emergency services  
14 in Beloit, offering local options for Illinois patients,  
15 eliminating the need to travel to Wisconsin or elsewhere  
16 for emergency care.

17 For these reasons, I enthusiastically endorse  
18 the NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital. Thank you.

19 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

20 Next, the Board would like to call Carol  
21 Gustafson.

22 MS. GUSTAFSON: Good afternoon. My name is Carol  
23 Gustafson, G-u-s-t-a-f-s-o-n. I'm the President of the  
24 Village of Roscoe. I've been involved in local

1 governance for over 10 years, first as a Village  
2 Trustee, and now as Village President.

3 Roscoe is a thriving community in northern  
4 Winnebago County, having nearly doubled in population  
5 over the last 20 years. We exceed 11,000 people. Our  
6 community's growth has created an urgent need for  
7 enhanced and accessible healthcare services. The  
8 proposed expansion of NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital  
9 is a critical step in addressing this need.

10 This project not only fills the vital gaps in  
11 emergency care and primary care access, as identified in  
12 the 2023 Community Health Needs Assessment, but it also  
13 alleviates bed utilization issues in the region.

14 The Village of Roscoe's residential and  
15 commercial areas stretch west of Old River Road, east  
16 beyond I-90, north almost to the Wisconsin state line,  
17 and south to Machesney Park. One of the most  
18 significant advantages of this proposed hospital  
19 expansion is that it will enable village residents to  
20 receive their healthcare locally, within Illinois,  
21 without the need to leave the state for Wisconsin or  
22 travel south to the congested and overburdened hospitals  
23 in Rockford.

24 The creation of a NorthPointe Neighborhood

1 Hospital will enhance or will ensure that residents from  
2 all corners of our community and our region can easily  
3 access and conveniently access care right here at home.  
4 This is essential for their health and overall  
5 well-being.

6 Beyond healthcare, the economic impact of this  
7 expansion is substantial. The construction phase will  
8 create good-paying jobs, and the operational phase will  
9 provide ongoing opportunities for employment within the  
10 healthcare sector and beyond. Each hospital job  
11 supports two additional jobs within the community, and  
12 every dollar spent by a hospital generates \$2.30 in  
13 additional business activity.

14 It is crucial that NorthPointe's services  
15 remain accessible to all residents, including those with  
16 fewer resources. The proposed expansion aligns with the  
17 Village of Roscoe's goals of regional collaboration,  
18 economic development, and most importantly insuring the  
19 health, well-being, and safety of our residents.

20 I strongly urge the Illinois Health Facilities  
21 and Services Review Board to approve the planned  
22 expansion of NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital. This  
23 project is essential for the health, growth, and  
24 stability of our region. Thank you.

1 MR. ROATE: Next, the Board would like to call  
2 Paula Carynski.

3 MS. CARYNSKI: Good afternoon. I'm Paula Carynski,  
4 C-a-r-y-n-s-k-i, and I am the president of OSF  
5 St. Anthony Medical Center.

6 And I am here this afternoon to highlight the  
7 critical importance of OSF's commitment to charitable  
8 service within our region. Our mission is to serve with  
9 the greatest care and love. And we embody this daily  
10 providing extensive charitable healthcare to those in  
11 need.

12 However, the proposed NorthPointe Neighborhood  
13 Hospital in Winnebago County poses a significant  
14 challenge for us to carry out our charitable work. The  
15 Illinois Department of Public Health statistics shows an  
16 excess of 94 medical-surgical beds in our region,  
17 indicating no need for additional beds.

18 Adding another hospital would create  
19 unnecessary duplication of services, and strain our  
20 financial stability essential to continue our charitable  
21 work. Moreover, redirecting Illinois patients out of  
22 the state to Wisconsin will reduce Illinois providers'  
23 ability to generate funding to support Illinois patients  
24 and programs.

1 The beauty of the prairie, visible from my  
2 room, was more than just aesthetically pleasing. It  
3 fostered a sense of peace and wellness. This  
4 environment was not just about addressing physical  
5 health needs, but also promoting overall emotional and  
6 mental well-being. The tranquil setting allowed me to  
7 relax and recuperate more effectively, free from the  
8 usual stresses associated with hospital stays.

9 In addition to personal recovery, the benefits  
10 of incorporating natural elements into healthcare  
11 facilities are well-documented. Access to green spaces  
12 and natural views can reduce stress, anxiety, and  
13 depressive symptoms for patients, staff, and visitors  
14 alike.

15 These elements can also approve cognitive  
16 function, aiding in better decision-making and overall  
17 mental performance. For healthcare workers who are  
18 often at risk of burnout, such environments can provide  
19 a necessary respite, helping them maintain their  
20 well-being and perform their duties with greater focus  
21 and empathy.

22 Furthermore, the design of the birthing center  
23 encouraged physical activity, which is crucial for  
24 recovery. I found myself taking short walks around the

1 Instead of expanding unnecessarily, we should  
2 focus on strengthening our existing facilities to insure  
3 we can provide high-quality care to marginalize in  
4 underserved populations.

5 Your support in opposing this proposal is  
6 crucial for us to maintain our commitment to serve with  
7 the greatest care and love. Thank you.

8 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

9 Next, the Board would like to call Ms. Britnie  
10 Danielson.

11 MS. DANIELSON: Hello. My name is Britnie  
12 Danielson, B-r-i-t-n-i-e Danielson. I am totally in  
13 favor of the NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital proposal  
14 inspired by my recent experience at the NorthPointe  
15 Birthing Center.

16 The center's thoughtful design featuring  
17 expansive views of the surrounding prairie, access to  
18 natural light, beautiful scenery, and a healing  
19 environment that significantly enhanced my postpartum  
20 recovery.

21 After giving birth, I found immense comfort in  
22 the center's connection to nature. The large windows  
23 and natural surroundings provided a calming backdrop  
24 that eased my transition into motherhood, once again.

1 facility, which not only helped me physically but also  
2 mentally, as the natural surroundings lifted my spirits.

3 This focus on holistic care, incorporating  
4 nature into the healing process, underscores the  
5 importance of not just treating illness, but promoting  
6 overall health and wellness.

7 My experience at the NorthPointe Birthing  
8 Center has convinced me that expanding these principles  
9 to a full neighborhood hospital would be incredibly  
10 beneficial for our community.

11 The proposed NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital  
12 promises to provide a holistic healthcare experience,  
13 integrating state-of-the-art medical care with the  
14 healing power of nature. This approach will, without a  
15 doubt, enhance patient recovery times, reduce pain, and  
16 improve the overall quality of care.

17 Having such a facility would not only serve  
18 immediate healthcare needs, but also set a new standard  
19 for hospital design and patient care in our region. It  
20 would offer an invaluable resource for families and  
21 individuals in our community, providing a place where  
22 healing and wellness are intertwined.

23 I wholeheartedly support the establishment of  
24 the NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital and encourage our



1 community leaders and members to back this  
2 transformative project. It is a crucial step towards a  
3 healthier and more well-rounded approach to healthcare  
4 in our area.

5 MR. ROATE: Next, the Board would like to call  
6 Ms. Brandi Smith.

7 MS. SMITH: Good afternoon. My name is Brandi  
8 Smith. B-r-a-n-d-i, S-m-i-t-h.

9 As a Roscoe resident, I'm concerned that the  
10 proposed NorthPointe Hospital might drive up healthcare  
11 costs in our area. With plenty of other hospitals  
12 already available, I'm worried that adding another  
13 facility could lead to higher expenses for patients.

14 I think it is important that we consider the  
15 potential financial impact on our community before  
16 moving forward with this new hospital.

17 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

18 Next, the Board would like to call Ms. Sharon  
19 Cox. Ms. Cox, C-o-x?

20 MS. COX: Good afternoon. My name is Sharon Cox,  
21 C-o-x, Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer for  
22 Beloit Health System.

23 I began my career here as a certified nursing  
24 assistant in 1998, became a Registered Nurse in 2000,

1 area.

2 Beloit Health System's evolution reflects our  
3 commitment to advancing healthcare. The new hospital is  
4 a crucial step in enhancing patient care, supporting our  
5 medical staff, and addressing community needs. I  
6 strongly support this initiative.

7 I want to thank the Health Facilities and  
8 Services Review Board for its consideration and ask that  
9 it approve a neighborhood hospital on our NorthPointe  
10 campus. Thank you.

11 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

12 Next, the Board would like to call Mr. Jason  
13 Nelson.

14 MR. NELSON: Good afternoon. My name is Jason  
15 Nelson, J-a-s-o-n, N-e-l-s-o-n. I'm part of Beloit  
16 Health System, and I am here to discuss the NorthPointe  
17 Neighborhood Hospital project and why it is a crucial  
18 development for the Stateline community.

19 First, I want to express my gratitude to the  
20 community representatives and others who are here today  
21 to support this project. This proposal has been  
22 meticulously crafted to address our community's  
23 healthcare needs while ensuring cost-effectiveness. We  
24 have taken a prudent approach by adding only 10 beds to

1 and have since held various leadership roles culminating  
2 in my current position.

3 Over the years, Beloit Memorial Hospital has  
4 grown significantly. Located in Beloit, Wisconsin, and  
5 opened in 1970, and has continually adapted to meet  
6 patient needs.

7 In 2010, we expanded our emergency department,  
8 making it one of the busiest in Wisconsin. By 2017, we  
9 transformed our fourth floor into the Hendrick's Family  
10 Heart Hospital, enhancing our cardiovascular care. In  
11 2021, we renovated our pediatric unit creating the  
12 Packard Family Care Center to better serve our youngest  
13 patients.

14 Looking ahead, by 2027, all patient rooms at  
15 Beloit Memorial Hospital will be private, significantly  
16 improving family support, communication, and overall  
17 patient care. Additionally, the proposed NorthPointe  
18 Neighborhood Hospital in Roscoe will provide more  
19 immediate access of our high-quality care to more  
20 communities.

21 This facility will offer inpatient and  
22 emergency services, providing timely medical attention  
23 for our critical conditions and supporting our physician  
24 recruitment efforts in this health professional shortage

1 the service area, ensuring we meet demand without  
2 overextending our resources.

3 In the context of healthcare delivery in the  
4 U.S. post-pandemic, the concept of a small-format  
5 hospital is not novel. Despite what some detractors-  
6 primarily the competition- might suggest, this project  
7 is both sensible and necessary for the Illinois  
8 communities we serve.

9 A key advantage of this project is that many  
10 required services are already in place. We have  
11 existing imaging, laboratory, and pharmacy facilities  
12 that will seamlessly integrate with the new hospital.  
13 This approach allows us to leverage our current  
14 infrastructure, reducing overall costs and  
15 implementation time.

16 Additionally, we plan to convert our existing  
17 immediate care center into the emergency department.  
18 This conversion maximizes the use of our current  
19 facilities while expanding critical emergency services.  
20 Also, we will transfer one operating room from the  
21 NorthPointe Surgery Center to the new hospital,  
22 optimizing our surgical capabilities without unnecessary  
23 duplication.

24 These strategic decisions demonstrate our

1 commitment to efficient resource allocation and fiscal  
2 responsibility. By carefully repurposing existing  
3 assets and adding only essential new elements, we ensure  
4 that this project delivers maximum value to our  
5 community while minimizing financial impact.

6 Thank you for your time and consideration. I  
7 stand with my colleagues in asking the Illinois Health  
8 Facilities and Services Review Board to approve this  
9 project.

10 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

11 Next, the Board would like to call Mr. August  
12 Querciagrossa.

13 MR. QUERCIAGROSSA: Good afternoon. My name is  
14 August, A-u-g-u-s-t, Querciagrossa,  
15 Q-u-e-r-c-i-a-g-r-o-s-s-a.

16 I serve as the western region CEO for OSF  
17 Healthcare, which includes the Rockford and surrounding  
18 communities. I want to address the pressing issues of  
19 avoiding the duplication of healthcare services. The  
20 Illinois Department of Public Health Statistics clearly  
21 show that our region has 94 more medical-surgical beds  
22 than needed.

23 The Beloit Health System's proposed  
24 NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital aiming to serve a

1 including adding a local emergency room, because I think  
2 it is in the best interest of the residents of Rockton  
3 that I represent, as well as our Stateline community  
4 region.

5 For me, nothing comes before the health and  
6 safety of our residents. In Rockton, we have responsive  
7 and excellent emergency responders. We know that  
8 ambulance transport times in the region can range from  
9 15 to 25 minutes. Every minute counts. It is not hard  
10 to think about that amount of time making a huge  
11 difference.

12 Having an emergency room in the community will  
13 shorten those times, ensuring prompt intervention,  
14 thereby increasing a patient's chance of survival.  
15 Ambulances transporting patients to a facility close to  
16 home will ensure the ambulance will be promptly back in  
17 service and ready to answer the next call when Rockton  
18 residents are in need. Supporting a small-format  
19 neighborhood hospital here in our neighboring region is  
20 the right call to make for public safety.

21 It is not in my speech here. But on a  
22 personal level, a couple years ago my diabetes went  
23 crazy on me. I was fortunate enough to be in a place  
24 where an ambulance was close to the hospital. The

1 17-mile geographic area that already includes 22 urgent  
2 care centers and emergency departments is unrealistic  
3 and unnecessary.

4 The healthcare needs of Roscoe and its  
5 surrounding communities are already being met through  
6 OSF and other healthcare providers. This project leads  
7 to increased healthcare costs and misled patients about  
8 the level of care available, potentially risking patient  
9 safety.

10 Moreover, the introduction of this hospital  
11 could exacerbate our already challenged clinical  
12 workforce shortage creating more inefficiencies.

13 I urge supporters of this proposed project to  
14 reconsider, and instead invest in enhancing our current  
15 healthcare infrastructure to provide efficient and  
16 effective care to our communities without redundancy.  
17 Thank you.

18 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

19 Next, the Board would like to call Mr. John  
20 Peterson.

21 MR. PETERSON: Wow, there's a lot of you. My name  
22 is John Peterson, J-o-h-n, P-e-t-e-r-s-o-n, and I'm the  
23 Mayor of Rockton. I'm speaking in support of the  
24 NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital proposal before you,

1 emergency room doctor told me if I waited very much  
2 longer, I wouldn't have made it.

3 On a personal level I'm a realtor, husband,  
4 father, and active community member. I am a longtime  
5 Rockton Lions Club member and very active volunteer in  
6 Rockton. I have worked to enhance Rockton as a place  
7 for visitors, residents, business owners, and  
8 entrepreneurs.

9 People enjoy being here. We have a strong  
10 community worthy of further development and support.  
11 Right now, the NorthPointe health offices are a great  
12 resource for families in town to get access to many  
13 types of care. From mothers bringing their babies into  
14 the world at NorthPointe Birthing Center, to seniors  
15 enjoying their golden years at the senior living, I have  
16 heard from many Rockton residents who appreciate having  
17 NorthPointe here to serve them.

18 NorthPointe has proven it can deliver the care  
19 that people need and want. And if our area is short on  
20 physicians, we should help prevent people having to  
21 drive out of the area for care.

22 Am I done? Thank you very much for your time.  
23 I appreciate it.

24 MR. ROATE: Next, the Board would like to call

1 Ms. Kerry Hill, H-i-l-l.  
 2 MS. HILL: Good afternoon. My name is Kerry Hill,  
 3 K-e-r-r-y, H-i-l-l, and I'm the Regional Vice President  
 4 of Finance for OSF Healthcare, to include Rockford and  
 5 the surrounding counties.

6 I'm here today to make a crucial  
 7 recommendation regarding the proposed NorthPointe  
 8 Neighborhood Hospital by Beloit Health System.

9 While the intention to expand healthcare  
 10 services to the Stateline community might seem  
 11 beneficial, it poses a significant challenge for us as  
 12 we carry out our charitable work in the region. The  
 13 region already has an excess of 94 medical-surgical beds  
 14 with 22 emergency department and urgent care centers,  
 15 all within the 17-mile radius.

16 The proposed NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital  
 17 offers limited specialty services, which ultimately  
 18 could lead to patient confusion and delays in critical  
 19 care.

20 Adding another hospital campus to a  
 21 well-served region increases overall healthcare costs  
 22 without improving patient care. Furthermore,  
 23 redirecting insured populations out of state to  
 24 Wisconsin reduces the Illinois hospital providers'

1 equipped with the necessary infrastructure and ancillary  
 2 services to provide comprehensive emergency care.

3 Our team is comprised of highly skilled and  
 4 motivated professionals, including board certified  
 5 emergency physicians, nurses, administrative staff, and  
 6 laboratory and radiology personnel, all dedicated to  
 7 delivering exceptional care.

8 Access to emergency care is a fundamental  
 9 right and critical service for any community. While  
 10 NorthPointe Immediate Care excels in providing urgent  
 11 care comparable to other area hospitals, it is limited  
 12 by its inability to accept ambulance transports.

13 Additionally, as an Immediate Care Center, we  
 14 cannot offer the full spectrum of services available in  
 15 a hospital emergency department such as a 24-hour care  
 16 for acutely ill or injured patients, and the capability  
 17 to admit patients for overnight monitoring and  
 18 additional testing. The proposed NorthPointe  
 19 Neighborhood Hospital will address these limitations.

20 By incorporating a full-service emergency  
 21 department, we will be able to accept ambulance  
 22 transports, significantly reducing transport times and  
 23 potentially saving lives. Our location will have the  
 24 transport times for emergency medical services, which

1 ability to generate funding that supports many of the  
 2 Illinois state programs and patient programs.

3 This program also threatens the stability of  
 4 the Illinois healthcare market by exacerbating workforce  
 5 shortages, the challenges around recruiting and  
 6 retaining clinical staff. Adding another hospital only  
 7 widens the gap.

8 I strongly recommend strengthening the  
 9 Stateline's existing healthcare infrastructure. By  
 10 investing in our current facilities, we can ensure  
 11 high-quality care, maintain financial stability, and  
 12 support the overall healthcare market in Illinois.

13 Thank you for your consideration.

14 MR. ROATE: Thank you, Mr. Hill.

15 Next, the Board would like to call Shelly  
 16 Riggeroff.

17 Next, the Board would like to call Ms. Kate  
 18 Ketterhagen.

19 MS. KETTERHAGEN: Hello. My name is Kate  
 20 Ketterhagen, and I'm an emergency department provider at  
 21 Beloit Health System. I'm here today to express my  
 22 strong support for the establishment of the NorthPointe  
 23 neighborhood Hospital. The current NorthPointe  
 24 Immediate Care facility is a state-of-the-art center

1 can be crucial in any life-threatening situation.

2 Also, having an emergency department on the  
 3 NorthPointe campus will allow the EMS personnel to  
 4 return to service much more quickly, enhancing overall  
 5 emergency response efficiency.

6 The addition of this hospital is not just  
 7 about improving emergency care. It is about enhancing  
 8 the overall healthcare infrastructure of the Stateline  
 9 community.

10 In sum, the approval of the NorthPointe  
 11 Neighborhood Hospital will significantly improve access  
 12 to emergency services for the residents of the Stateline  
 13 community, and I urge the Illinois Health Facilities and  
 14 Services Review Board to approve this vital project.  
 15 Thank you for your time.

16 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

17 Next, the Board would like to call Shannon  
 18 Dunphy-Alexander? Shannon Dunphy-Alexander?

19 MS. DUNPHY-ALEXANDER: Hello. My name is Shannon  
 20 Dunphy-Alexander, D-u-n-p-h-y-A-l-e-x-a-n-d-e-r. I am a  
 21 resident here in the area working, and I strongly oppose  
 22 this proposal. I feel it duplicates our healthcare  
 23 services and will be added expense to our residents in  
 24 the area. Thank you for your time.

1 MR. ROATE: Next, the Board would like to call  
 2 Nommo Donald.  
 3 MS. DONALD: Good afternoon. My name is Nommo  
 4 Donald. I'm the Vice President of Professional Support  
 5 Services for the Beloit Health System. With over 20  
 6 years of healthcare administration, I oversee critical  
 7 services for the communities we serve including  
 8 cardiovascular, rehabilitation, imaging, pharmacy,  
 9 laboratory in our beautiful NorthPointe campus.  
 10 Neighborhood hospitals like the proposed  
 11 NorthPointe facilities specialize in lower acuity cases,  
 12 representing a growing trend in healthcare delivery.  
 13 They provide an additional access point for emergencies  
 14 and inpatient services.  
 15 The NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital will be  
 16 an important part of our integrated healthcare system,  
 17 collaborating with the broader medical community and  
 18 partnership.  
 19 Our proposal fully complies with the Illinois  
 20 Health and Hospital Association criteria for  
 21 small-format hospitals. Notably, it will be owned by a  
 22 nearby health system, which operates a general acute  
 23 care hospital.  
 24 It will be located near our other Beloit

1 Dammon. Thomas Dammon, D-a-m-m-o-n.  
 2 Next, the Board would like to call Zach  
 3 Brockman.  
 4 MR. BROCKMAN: Good afternoon. My name is Zach  
 5 Brockman. Z-a-c-h, B-r-o-c-k-m-a-n.  
 6 Again, my name is Zach Brockman. I'm the  
 7 President of the Beloit Sky Carp, a Minor League  
 8 Baseball affiliate of Miami Marlins. And our team is  
 9 proud to contribute to community development by creating  
 10 jobs and attracting tourism. And I'm here to express my  
 11 support for the NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital.  
 12 Our owners, Quint and Rishy Studer, who many  
 13 of you know, are deeply committed to community-based  
 14 development and education. They have made significant  
 15 contributions to enhancing healthcare outcomes,  
 16 supporting small businesses, improving urban  
 17 environments, and advancing early childhood education.  
 18 This last calendar year alone they contributed  
 19 over half a million dollars back to this community for  
 20 those programs. Their dedication to reinvesting into  
 21 community initiatives through both investment and  
 22 philanthropy is evident in their actions.  
 23 Beloit Health System has been an outstanding  
 24 partner to the Sky Carp. Embodying a strong commitment

1 hospital which will facilitate transfers for our higher  
 2 acuity needs. Its planned inpatient unit is justified  
 3 based on current Certificate of Need criteria for the  
 4 basis of future referrals.  
 5 It will have a dedicated emergency department.  
 6 In addition, our hospital accepts all patients  
 7 regardless of their ability to pay, and that will  
 8 continue at this NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital.  
 9 At the time of its opening, in addition it  
 10 will obtain a certificate of CMS for Medicaid or  
 11 Medicare services to take care of our population.  
 12 and finally, we are here today as part of the CON permit  
 13 process to demonstrate broader community  
 14 support.  
 15 The NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital will  
 16 help stem outmigration to Wisconsin providers, keeping  
 17 care local for our Illinois residents. It will create  
 18 jobs and improve access to quality healthcare in our  
 19 community.  
 20 I urge the Illinois Health Facilities Service  
 21 Review Board to approve this vital project. Thank you  
 22 for your consideration.  
 23 MR. ROATE: Thank you.  
 24 Next, the Board would like to call Mr. Thomas

1 to providing excellent healthcare, their dedication to  
 2 maintaining a robust, independent health system is  
 3 evident through their numerous community initiatives.  
 4 The health system hosts events throughout the  
 5 year to benefit the Stateline community such as  
 6 Community Safety Day, which educates children and  
 7 families on safety practices, and the Pulling for  
 8 Hospice event which supports the Beloit Regional  
 9 Hospice. Additionally, their annual Pro-Am Golf event  
 10 and the Doves & Diamonds Gala raise funds for healthcare  
 11 services and celebrates the impactful work of the  
 12 providers' hospice team.  
 13 The proposed expansion of services at the  
 14 NorthPointe campus aligns perfectly with the health  
 15 system's mission to deliver comprehensive care to all  
 16 patients regardless of their financial situation. It  
 17 also aligns very closely with the Sky Carp mission,  
 18 which is to improve the quality of life for everyone in  
 19 this community.  
 20 This initiative is a testament to their  
 21 unwavering commitment to that community. Thank you.  
 22 MR. ROATE: Thank you.  
 23 Next, the Board would like to call Ms. Danette  
 24 Eibl.

1 MS. EIBL: Thank you. I'm Danette Eibl, E-i-b-l.  
 2 I'm opposing it. I live in a neighborhood  
 3 right down the street from there. The additional  
 4 traffic on Rockton Road, as well as the sirens from the  
 5 ambulances. I live in a very quiet neighborhood, and  
 6 this would really be distracting, as well as the safety  
 7 on Rockton Road from all the additional traffic.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

10 Next, the Board would like to call Dr. Ed  
 11 Nabrinsky.

12 MR. NABRINSKY: My name is Dr. Edward Nabrinsky,  
 13 N-a-b-r-i-n-s-k-y, and I'm a board certified physician  
 14 in internal medicine by the American Board of Internal  
 15 Medicine, as well as fellowship trained in hematology  
 16 and oncology, working here for Beloit Health. And I  
 17 want to speak in support of the NorthPointe Neighborhood  
 18 Hospital.

19 I specialize in diagnosing and treating  
 20 blood-related disorders, as well as cancers. Recent  
 21 advancements in cancer care make this a very exciting  
 22 time to be an oncologist, as these advances are helping  
 23 us and our patients fight and beat cancer. As a  
 24 hematologist and oncologist, I'm committed to staying at

1 to express my support for the NorthPointe Neighborhood  
 2 Hospital. As a lifelong resident and a local business  
 3 owner, I've experienced first-hand the critical need for  
 4 a local healthcare facility.

5 My participation as a Board member for Kandu  
 6 Industries has furthered my appreciation for the  
 7 importance of caring for those in need locally. And I  
 8 can see by having a hospital here in Roscoe would,  
 9 indeed, contribute to providing care for those who need  
 10 it most.

11 Now, NorthPointe Health System is dedicated to  
 12 improving community health. And I was a decades-long  
 13 member of their health and wellness center. I have  
 14 personally seen the impact of NorthPointe's growing  
 15 services in our community.

16 Beloit Health System is the only independent  
 17 health system in the area. It is small, but it is  
 18 top-notch. There is a need for an advancement and  
 19 enhancement of services in this region, and NorthPointe  
 20 is proposing to meet that demand.

21 I am confident that the establishment of the  
 22 NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital will significantly  
 23 benefit our region by providing easily accessible  
 24 healthcare services, ensuring timely medical

1 the forefront of available treatment and providing the  
 2 best care to my patients.

3 Despite these advances, cancer patients often  
 4 suffer from complications that necessitate access to  
 5 hospital and emergency services, especially after hours.  
 6 Hospital and emergency services in Roscoe will allow  
 7 cancer patients to receive care closer to home for acute  
 8 complications, as these patients are often hospitalized  
 9 more than non-oncology patients with issues such as pain  
 10 control, gastrointestinal problems, respiratory and  
 11 neurologic problems, infections, and bleeding among the  
 12 common reasons for emergency visits.

13 The NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital will  
 14 provide essential support for both our hematology and  
 15 oncology patients. And I urge the Illinois Health  
 16 Facilities and Services Review Board to approve it.

17 Thank you very much.

18 THE COURT: Thank you.

19 Next, the Board would like to call Mr. Michael  
 20 Prosser.

21 MR. PROSSER: Good afternoon. I love the community  
 22 support. Love the involvement.

23 My name is Michael Prosser. I'm the President  
 24 of Henrici's Management Corporation, and I'm here today

1 intervention, and alleviating the burden on current  
 2 medical facilities.

3 Our community will also benefit from an  
 4 economic standpoint with the creation of more jobs in  
 5 our area.

6 I wholeheartedly support the proposal for the  
 7 NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital and believe that its  
 8 approval will greatly enhance the quality of life for  
 9 all community members. And that is what it should be  
 10 about.

11 Thank you for your consideration.

12 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

13 Next, the Board would like to call  
 14 Mr. Christopher Mason.

15 MR. MASON: Hello. My name is Christopher Mason,  
 16 C-h-r-i-s-t-o-p-h-e-r, M-a-s-o-n, and I oppose the  
 17 hospital. I don't think we need another hospital in our  
 18 area. We already have several well-established  
 19 facilities.

20 My wife and I are expecting our first child,  
 21 so we are actively using them and are very satisfied  
 22 with the wait times and care we have received. Adding  
 23 another hospital could lead us to unnecessary  
 24 competition and duplication of services. We should

1 instead focus on supporting the existing hospitals to  
2 ensure they can meet the needs of the area's residents.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. ROATE: Thank you, sir.

5 Next, the Board would like to call Ms. Sharon  
6 Hecox.

7 MS. HECOX: Good afternoon. My name is Sharon  
8 S-h-a-r-o-n, H-e-c-o-x. I'm the Executive Director of  
9 the Stateline Mass Transit District. Our agency  
10 provides affordable, reliable, and safe public  
11 transportation services for the residents of the  
12 Stateline area of northern Illinois, and I'm here to  
13 express our support for this proposal.

14 Our transportation services are crucial in  
15 ensuring that low-income and elderly residents have  
16 access to essential medical care at the NorthPointe  
17 campus. These services bridge the gap for individuals  
18 without reliable transportation; reducing missed  
19 appointments, and improving overall health outcomes.

20 By providing these rides, we help mitigate the  
21 financial and logistical barriers that often prevent  
22 vulnerable populations from receiving timely medical  
23 attention. Additionally, our transportation services  
24 enhance the quality of life for elderly residents by

1 promoting independence and reducing social isolation.

2 These programs are vital for fostering a  
3 healthier and more equitable community, and we truly  
4 value our partnership with Beloit Health System.

5 I support the approval of this proposed  
6 neighborhood hospital. NorthPointe services focus on  
7 wellness and patient-centered care. By prioritizing  
8 preventive care, well-being, and empowering patients to  
9 be active participants in their health journey, this  
10 provider demonstrates a deep commitment to improving the  
11 overall health of the community.

12 I know of many transit-dependent individuals  
13 who use NorthPointe services and do not have access to  
14 alternate transportation outside the area. When people  
15 need care that is not available locally, it is very  
16 taxing for the patients and their families close to  
17 home, especially when a hospital stay is required.  
18 Keeping area residents close to home for healthcare will  
19 enable patients to remain near their loved ones, making  
20 it easier for family members to visit them while in the  
21 hospital.

22 SMTD strongly supports the transition of  
23 NorthPointe to a hospital facility to meet the needs of  
24 the local community. NorthPointe is a strong community

1 supporter. Their presence continues to benefit both  
2 local businesses and our riders.

3 Thank you for your time, and bravo to  
4 NorthPointe for seeking real solutions to real-world  
5 problems.

6 MR. ROATE: Next, the Board would like to call  
7 Nicole Kovarik.

8 MR. KOVARIK: Good afternoon. I'm Nicole Kovarik,  
9 K-o-v-a-r-i-k. I'm the emergency department nursing  
10 director at Beloit Health System and for the NorthPointe  
11 Immediate Care.

12 As you can imagine, we have given our hard  
13 work to establish emergency services at the NorthPointe  
14 location over the years. I'm here to support the  
15 NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital.

16 Beloit Memorial Hospital operates one of the  
17 busiest emergency departments in the State of Wisconsin.  
18 Many of the patients that present to our emergency  
19 department in Beloit are Illinois residents.

20 Establishing a small hospital in Roscoe with a full  
21 service emergency department will help stem this  
22 outmigration and keep patients closer to home.

23 The planned project will result in the upgrade  
24 of the current Beloit Immediate Care to a full service

1 emergency department with 13 bays. Eight bays will be  
2 dedicated to emergency patients, and five bays for  
3 immediate care.

4 Patients presenting at the NorthPointe  
5 emergency department will be triaged according to  
6 medical conditions, with patients presenting with  
7 emergent conditions like uncontrolled hypertension,  
8 pneumonia, or dehydration going to the emergency bays,  
9 and patients who historically used NorthPointe Immediate  
10 Care for less urgent conditions like respiratory  
11 infections, sprains, and minor lacerations will be sent  
12 to the Immediate Care area.

13 Importantly, there is flexibility in the  
14 emergency department design. If additional emergency  
15 bays are needed, we can convert immediate care bays to  
16 emergent bays so we can quickly address those with  
17 emergent conditions.

18 The planned hospital will alleviate over  
19 utilization at Beloit Memorial Hospital and allow  
20 patients to be treated closer to home and where they can  
21 be predictably -- predictably rely on their family's  
22 support.

23 Thank you for your time.

24 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

1 Next, the Board would like to call Mr. Thomas  
 2 Dammon. Thomas Dammon? D-a-m-m-o-n?  
 3 Next, the Board would like to call Ms. Carrie  
 4 Hogan.  
 5 MS. HOGAN: Good afternoon. My name is Carrie  
 6 Hogan. It is C-a-r-r-i-e, H-o-g-a-n. And as an area  
 7 resident, I'm puzzled by the proposal to build more  
 8 hospitals when we already have several close by. It  
 9 seems unnecessary, and could lead to an oversupply of  
 10 services, potentially driving up healthcare costs.  
 11 Additionally, it could lead to people not  
 12 knowing where to go in case of an emergency. Will they  
 13 be equipped to handle things such as stroke, heart  
 14 attacks, and injuries from traumatic accidents?  
 15 Thank you.  
 16 MR. ROATE: Thank you.  
 17 Next, the Board would like to call  
 18 Ms. Virginia Neira.  
 19 MS. NEIRA: Hello. My name is Virginia Neira. I'm  
 20 a resident of NorthPointe Terrace. I've lived at this  
 21 assisted living facility for over four years now.  
 22 For your information, NorthPointe is part of  
 23 the Beloit Health System. The Terrace assisted living  
 24 is right on the hill to the west of the main building.

1 the best medical care possible. I deserve the best  
 2 medical care possible. And so do you. I say yes to the  
 3 proposal.  
 4 Thank you.  
 5 MR. ROATE: Thank you.  
 6 Next, the Board would like to call Ms. Denise  
 7 Falk.  
 8 MS. FALK: Hello. My name is Denise Falk.  
 9 D-e-n-i-s-e, F-a-l-k, and I'm from Rockton, Illinois,  
 10 part of the Stateline community. I strongly support  
 11 Beloit System's proposal to establish a 10-bed  
 12 neighborhood hospital on the NorthPointe campus. This  
 13 facility will significantly enhance healthcare access  
 14 for Stateline residents in several crucial ways.  
 15 Proximity to a hospital can be lifesaving  
 16 during emergencies when every minute counts. A local  
 17 hospital will reduce emergency response times. It will  
 18 allow ambulances to remain in district improving overall  
 19 emergency coverage. It will also provide critical care  
 20 faster for time-sensitive conditions and improve access  
 21 to care.  
 22 The Stateline area faces challenges with  
 23 timely access to medical services. This provider is  
 24 adding 10 primary care physicians at the updated Beloit

1 I'm here to voice my strong support for the  
 2 NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital proposal. For me it  
 3 is a no-brainer. I worry about having more falls and a  
 4 cardiac episode. Anything that would require  
 5 hospitalization. So I don't want any more long rides.  
 6 Even 20 minutes on bumpy roads, no thank you.  
 7 A neighborhood hospital staffed with quality  
 8 doctors and equipment would mean everything to me. Two  
 9 minutes and smooth roads would get me there through the  
 10 emergency room door. Time is everything.  
 11 Recently we lost a dear friend. We wonder if  
 12 a closer hospital could have made a difference. We'll  
 13 never know. In addition to swift access, what a  
 14 convenience for our children and grands to visit and  
 15 support.  
 16 We also know our Stateline neighbors would  
 17 benefit with real added services. A 10-bed hospital and  
 18 inpatient care. Our NorthPointe Health and Wellness  
 19 Center already has quality doctors, an array of  
 20 specialists, physical therapists, equipment, and so on.  
 21 So it seems to me that it is just kind of a logical  
 22 extension for a hospital to be added to our NorthPointe  
 23 campus.  
 24 Our seniors in this Roscoe community deserve

1 clinic, which will reduce wait times for appointments,  
 2 especially new patients. It will also decrease reliance  
 3 on urgent care and emergency departments for routine  
 4 care and bring in more specialists to the area.  
 5 Many Illinois patients currently travel to  
 6 Wisconsin or Rockford for hospital services. A  
 7 Roscoe-based hospital will improve patient outcomes  
 8 through faster treatment. It will reduce travel burden  
 9 for patients and their families. It will allow families  
 10 to be more involved in treatment and recovery.  
 11 This 10-bed hospital will create a  
 12 comprehensive healthcare hub at NorthPointe, serving as  
 13 a vital community asset. It represents a significant  
 14 investment in our region's health infrastructure and  
 15 quality of life.  
 16 I urge you to approve this project, which will  
 17 have a profound positive impact on healthcare delivery  
 18 in the Stateline community.  
 19 Thank you for your consideration.  
 20 MR. ROATE: Thank you.  
 21 Next, the Board would like to call Ms. Amy  
 22 Carey. Amy Carey.  
 23 MS. CAREY: Hello. I'm Amy Carey, C-a-r-e-y, and  
 24 I'm here to oppose the project for the NorthPointe

1 Hospital. And because of that, it is too many  
2 duplicative services in the area for residents to have  
3 to choose between one or the other.

4 And I think that we are doing -- all of the  
5 health systems in the area are doing a great job in  
6 providing the services that they have.

7 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

8 Next, the Board would like to call Dr. Michael  
9 Abernathy.

10 MR. ABERNATHY: Quite the proud crowd. My name is  
11 Mike Abernathy. I'm a board certified emergency  
12 medicine physician. Over the last 30 years, I've worked  
13 at almost every Stateline emergency facility, but I have  
14 spent most of my time with Beloit Health system. I'm  
15 also a pre-hospital physician and educator. I've been  
16 involved in EMS my entire career.

17 As you may gather, I know a pretty good deal  
18 about the politics, economics, and operation of a  
19 regional healthcare. Most importantly, I've been a  
20 Roscoe and Boone County resident for 30 years, caring  
21 for extended family and raising my own family. So I'm  
22 speaking to you as an emergency physician who lives and  
23 works in this community.

24 I'm not a hospital spokesman. I'm not an

1 traumas. Very sick children. And we do a damn good job  
2 of resuscitating, stabilizing, and then transferring  
3 them.

4 The infrastructure is solidly in place. It is  
5 not a difficult step to become a full-service, 24-hour  
6 emergency department if given the proper authorization.

7 Anyway, I do wholeheartedly support this. I  
8 mean, it is a no-brainer. We need the care in the area.  
9 Beloit Health System is willing to provide it. Thank  
10 you.

11 MR. ROATE: Thank you, sir.

12 Next, the Board would like to call Mr. James  
13 Bird.

14 MR. BIRD: Not sure I can follow that, but I'll  
15 try. My name is James Bird, B-i-r-d.

16 Good afternoon. I'm the CFO for the Beloit  
17 Health System. I'd like to highlight our financial  
18 stability, which puts us in an ideal position to  
19 undertake the NorthPointe neighborhood Hospital project.  
20 We are proud to report that Fitch's Ratings has awarded  
21 us an A bond rating with a stable outlook.

22 This rating reflects our solid market  
23 position, stable operating performance, and moderate  
24 leverage position. It is a strong vote of confidence in

1 administrator, a lawyer, or salesperson for a large  
2 health care system. We have heard from some hospital  
3 administrators about these 94 excess critical care beds  
4 in the Rockford area. Please show me where they are.

5 I tell you, for the last few years, we have  
6 had increasing ER volumes. We are boarding patients in  
7 the emergency departments. Boarding means that after we  
8 make the decision to admit the patient, they may stay in  
9 the ER for two hours, four hours, 12 hours waiting for a  
10 bed to become available.

11 It is not just Beloit. It is every Rockford  
12 hospital. Swedes, OSF, Javon Bea, UW. We are all  
13 seeing this.

14 I'm proud to work at NorthPointe Immediate  
15 Care. It is a great service and medical asset to our  
16 community. But urgent care really doesn't sum it up.  
17 It is a state-of-the-art facility staffed by EM boarded  
18 docs, complete with full radiology, pharmacy, and  
19 laboratory.

20 Now, we do see the typical sprains, aches,  
21 pains, cuts, minor complaints. But what people don't  
22 realize is that we get really sick patients that walk  
23 through our doors. They don't come by ambulance. But I  
24 have seen heart attacks. I have seen strokes. Major

1 our fiscal management and future prospects.

2 Our financial stability is underpinned by  
3 several key factors. First, we have seen increased  
4 access throughout patient services, expanded our reach  
5 and service to the community. This growth demonstrates  
6 the rising demand for our services and the trust placed  
7 in us by patients.

8 Secondly, our care delivery system has  
9 rebounded significantly since the pandemic. This  
10 recovery showcases our resilience and the essential  
11 nature of our services to the community. It also  
12 indicates a strong foundation for future expansion.

13 Finally, we maintain ample financial  
14 flexibility with low leverage and sufficient liquidity.  
15 This conservative financial approach ensures we have the  
16 resources necessary to support this new project without  
17 compromising our existing operations or financial  
18 health.

19 Our strong financial position means we can  
20 confidently invest in the NorthPointe Neighborhood  
21 Hospital knowing we have the resources to see it through  
22 to completion and successful operation. The project  
23 represents a sound investment in our community's health,  
24 backed by our proven financial stability and prudent



1 management.  
 2 Thank you for your attention, and I look  
 3 forward to presenting our proposal to the Health  
 4 Facilities and Service Review Board for its  
 5 consideration and approval.

6 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

7 Next, the Board would like to call Elizabeth  
 8 McNames.

9 MS. McNAMES: Good afternoon. As a Roscoe  
 10 resident, I'm worried that building a new hospital in  
 11 our area could lead to an increase in already rising  
 12 healthcare costs.

13 Will the expenses associated with building and  
 14 operating a new facility be passed on to patients  
 15 through higher fees? This could make accessing medical  
 16 care less affordable for many people in our small  
 17 community. Thank you.

18 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

19 Next, the Board would like to call Jodi Moyer.

20 MS. MOYER: Good afternoon. My name is Jodi Moyer.  
 21 J-o-d-i, M-o-y-e-r. I serve as the EMS coordinator for  
 22 Beloit Health System. And in my daily role, I'm  
 23 responsible for developing, coordinating, and delivering  
 24 education for area EMS providers.

1 periods. This will help ensure all emergency patients  
 2 are promptly seen by an emergency physician.

3 This would not only significantly reduce  
 4 transport times, but it would allow EMS providers to be  
 5 more readily available in their own districts, thereby  
 6 improving patient outcomes due to more timely care.

7 Thank you for your time and consideration. I  
 8 urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review  
 9 Board to approve this critical project for our Stateline  
 10 community.

11 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

12 Next, the Board would like to call Gus Larson.

13 MR. LARSON: Good afternoon. I am Gus Larson,  
 14 G-u-s, L-a-r-s-o-n, and I have had the privilege of  
 15 serving as the Director of the NorthPointe campus since  
 16 2007. The Beloit Health System has been dedicated to  
 17 serving the Stateline communities of Roscoe, South  
 18 Beloit, and Rockton, through the NorthPointe Health and  
 19 Wellness campus in Roscoe.

20 For those of you unfamiliar with NorthPointe,  
 21 it is a unique health and wellness campus spread over  
 22 122 beautiful acres restored northern Illinois prairie  
 23 conveniently located off Interstate 39.

24 Our campus offers a comprehensive range of

1 Today I am here in order to express my support  
 2 for the NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital. Across the  
 3 United States, both emergency departments and EMS  
 4 systems face increasing pressure to deliver more  
 5 services with fewer resources.

6 For our area's EMS professionals, providing  
 7 quality, timely, and efficient patient care is  
 8 complicated by delays in transporting patients to  
 9 emergency departments that are located a significant  
 10 distance from their response areas. Often times this is  
 11 up to 20 to 30 minutes away.

12 These delays not only reduce the availability  
 13 of EMS units to respond to other emergencies. These  
 14 delays can also lead to negative patient outcomes.

15 Currently there is no emergency department in  
 16 the Roscoe, Rockton, South Beloit community area.  
 17 Although our NorthPointe Immediate Care center can  
 18 provide timely services for urgent medical issues, it  
 19 cannot accept emergency ambulance transports.

20 The establishment of an emergency department  
 21 on the NorthPointe campus would enable us to accept  
 22 these ambulance transports. A flexible design of the  
 23 emergency department will allow us to convert immediate  
 24 care beds to urgent care beds during high-volume

1 services tailored to meet the needs of the community  
 2 including NorthPointe Health providing diagnostic  
 3 services, immediate care, and physician clinics.

4 NorthPointe Wellness, a medically integrated  
 5 fitness center with state-of-the-art equipment and  
 6 amenities. Our NorthPointe Terrace is our assisted  
 7 living community. We have our NorthPointe Birth Center  
 8 offering a comfortable and supportive environment for  
 9 childbirth. NorthPointe Surgery Center, a licensed  
 10 ambulatory surgical center for same-day surgery.

11 For strategic investments in physician  
 12 services, we have significantly improved the healthcare  
 13 access in the region, unmatched by any other health  
 14 system.

15 In addition to my role with the Beloit Health  
 16 System, I also serve as a firefighter EMT with the  
 17 Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District. This dual role  
 18 gives me first-hand insight into the EMS challenges the  
 19 Stateline community faces.

20 A full service emergency department in Roscoe  
 21 would be transformative for our community. It would  
 22 reduce the patient wait times and decrease ambulance  
 23 transfer time by 50 percent, freeing up EMS personnel  
 24 for the next emergency call within our district.

1 The impact of this development cannot be  
2 overstated. It would enhance patient outcomes, ensure  
3 our ambulances remain available, and ultimately save  
4 lives.

5 I urge the Health and Facilities Services  
6 Review Board to approve this essential initiative.  
7 Thank you.

8 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

9 Next, the Board would like to call Jeni  
10 Hallatt.

11 MS. HALLATT: Good afternoon. I'm Jeni Hallatt.  
12 J-e-n-i, H-a-l-l-a-t-t. I'm Vice President of  
13 Operations at Mercyhealth. And we are joining with  
14 other healthcare providers in the region today to oppose  
15 this unnecessary project.

16 I firmly believe this project is unnecessary  
17 and will not only call negative impact on facilities in  
18 the area, but also confusion for the residents in the  
19 community. The residents in Rockton and Roscoe and the  
20 surrounding communities are blessed with having great  
21 access to healthcare.

22 There are so many options. Within a 17-mile  
23 radius of the proposed project, there are seven  
24 hospitals, four of which are here in Illinois. Two of

1 project simply does not meet the Board's standards and  
2 does not even meet the Board's stated mission to  
3 increase unmet access and lower costs for patients.

4 For these reasons and many others, we believe  
5 this project should be denied. Thank you.

6 MR. ROATE: Next the Board would like to call  
7 Mr. Tom McCawley.

8 MR. McCAWLEY: Good afternoon. Thank you for being  
9 here. My name is Tom M-c-C-a-w-l-e-y. I'm one of the  
10 Vice Presidents for Beloit Health Services.

11 The Roscoe community has been federally  
12 designated as a health professional shortage area  
13 because too few primary care providers practice in the  
14 area. We are dedicated to addressing these access  
15 challenges using a strategic approach of physician  
16 recruitment and retention.

17 We work with national organizations to  
18 benchmark our efforts, ensuring that we employ a  
19 data-driven and candidate-centric strategy tailored to  
20 the specific needs of the communities we serve. As it  
21 stands, the physician office hours offered at our  
22 NorthPointe campus have vastly improved access to our  
23 patients who have appointments without having to travel  
24 to Wisconsin.

1 those are Level 1 trauma centers. There are nine  
2 existing emergency departments, and a tenth under  
3 construction. There are 12 urgent care facilities,  
4 including Mercyhealth Urgent Care which is just a mile  
5 away.

6 In my experience, the majority of urgent care  
7 is just that. Urgent care. And the numerous urgent  
8 cares in the area can continue to support the existing  
9 need.

10 In their own application, NorthPointe  
11 currently serves just 27 patients per day. That is  
12 about two an hour based on their hours of operation.  
13 And other urgent care sites also have capacity.  
14 Patients requiring emergency level services have fast  
15 access to nine existing ERs in the area.

16 Our initial review of this application  
17 reflects that the types of patients that could be served  
18 at this facility are already being cared for in existing  
19 facilities. And patients with more acute needs would  
20 not be able to be treated in this low acute setting.

21 The Board's own need methodology sets the  
22 foundation for consideration of this project. And those  
23 projections, as already mentioned, do show that the area  
24 already has an excess of 94 medical-surgical beds. This

1 The proposed NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital  
2 will be instrumental in advancing our recruitment and  
3 retention objectives. Expanding our continuum of  
4 services will not only improve the quality of care we  
5 can provide, but also make our campus more attractive to  
6 qualified medical professions.

7 With this proposal, we'll be able to recruit  
8 primary care physicians, as well as other primary and  
9 secondary specialists by offering access to  
10 state-of-the-art facilities and equipment, a  
11 well-rounded group of physician colleagues, and the  
12 ability to consult with specialists. All while allowing  
13 them to retain autonomy and make practice decisions on a  
14 local level.

15 Our strategy is not just to recruit talent,  
16 but to also foster a positive work environment with the  
17 supportive culture and a sense of community. We value  
18 work-life balance and consistently work to assess and  
19 improve job satisfaction by among other things,  
20 recognizing and rewarding our staffs' achievements.

21 The NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital is a  
22 critical component in expanding primary care access,  
23 supporting our recruitment and retention efforts, and  
24 ultimately addressing local healthcare needs.

1 It truly represents a significant step toward  
2 ensuring that the Stateline community has appropriate  
3 access to the healthcare services that promote health  
4 and wellness.

5 Thank you for your consideration.

6 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

7 Next, the Board would like to call Dr. Binn  
8 Jatta.

9 MS. JATTA: Good afternoon. Binn, B-i-n-n, Jatta,  
10 J-a-t-t-a. Hello, everyone. My name is Binn Jatta. I  
11 am actually a board certified OB GYN with an active  
12 practice at the NorthPointe campus in Roscoe.

13 I'm also the medical director of our new birth  
14 center at NorthPointe which offers a family-centered  
15 approach with a home-like environment and a focus on  
16 natural birth.

17 The origination of birth centers is to provide  
18 a calm, comfortable setting for low-risk pregnant  
19 patients that feels more like home than a medical  
20 facility. With an emphasis on natural unmedicated  
21 childbirth, we are proud of the services we provide to  
22 these expecting mothers at the birth center.

23 Patients in labor at the center are carefully  
24 monitored and assessed to ensure that the births that

1 a busy time on this roadway. Thank you, everyone, for  
2 attending.

3 Next, we'd like to call Gabriella Rostamo.

4 MEETING ATTENDEE: Please be careful in leaving.  
5 Law enforcement, there's a little bit of traffic out  
6 here. And please be careful.

7 MS. ROSTAMO: My name is Gabriella Rostamo. As a  
8 Roscoe resident, I'm concerned that I will end up paying  
9 more for services if I have to be transferred to a  
10 different hospital, because the proposed hospital can't  
11 provide the care that I need.

12 The cost of being transferred to a different  
13 hospital can add up quickly. Thank you.

14 MR. ROATE: Next, the Board would like to call  
15 Melissa Salaam.

16 MS. SALAAM: Good afternoon. My name is Melissa  
17 Salaam. I serve as the Director of Transitional Care at  
18 Beloit Health System. My role involves coordinating  
19 healthcare services between the hospital and various  
20 facilities, including nursing homes, assisted living  
21 facilities, and patients' homes, to ensure seamless  
22 continuity of care. Today, I'm here to express my  
23 strong support for the establishment of the NorthPointe  
24 Neighborhood Hospital.

1 will occur at the center will not require interventions.  
2 The national experience is that freestanding birth  
3 centers generally predict this very well.

4 However, as we all know, labor and delivery  
5 can sometimes become unpredictable and more complicated  
6 than expected. And it is in these cases that the mother  
7 may need to be transferred to a hospital to give birth.  
8 If the new NorthPointe neighborhood Hospital is  
9 approved, we will have ready access to emergency  
10 services to properly assess, stabilize, and transfer a  
11 patient if necessary.

12 I will typically be the patient's physician to  
13 take that transfer, and I would be able to meet the  
14 mother at the NorthPointe Emergency Center to further  
15 assess the situation and make a plan for a safe birth.

16 For these reasons and others, I'm excited for  
17 the opening of the new neighborhood hospital and urge  
18 that the Health Facilities and Service Review Board  
19 approve it. Thank you.

20 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

21 Ladies and gentlemen, for those in the parking  
22 lot, as you leave, we ask that you please turn to your  
23 right to avoid backing up traffic. For those on the  
24 road, please enter traffic carefully since this will be

1 As Mr. McKeVitt mentioned in his opening  
2 remarks, the NorthPointe campus, which opened in 2007,  
3 offers a wide range of services, including NorthPointe  
4 Terrace, an assisted living facility that serves  
5 numerous residents. However, what the campus currently  
6 lacks is a hospital inpatient and emergency room  
7 services.

8 Assisted living residents are typically frail  
9 and often have multiple comorbidities, making them more  
10 susceptible to hospitalization compared to younger  
11 patients for similar illnesses. For instance, an  
12 elderly patient with a urinary tract infection might  
13 require hospitalization to receive IV antibiotics and to  
14 monitor for complications such as cellulitis. Sudden  
15 onset of confusion, a common complication, often  
16 necessitates hospital monitoring, especially for  
17 patients living alone.

18 The proposed NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital  
19 will be just steps away from the NorthPointe Terrace.  
20 The proximity will facilitate the quick transport for  
21 residents who require emergency care or hospitalization.  
22 Additionally, it will alleviate the burden on families  
23 who play a crucial roll in patient care, as they are  
24 already familiar with the campus and will find it easier

1 to navigate the smaller hospital compared to a large  
 2 acute care facility.  
 3 The establishment of the NorthPointe  
 4 Neighborhood Hospital will significantly improve access  
 5 to healthcare to residents of NorthPointe Terrace and  
 6 the broader Stateline community. By providing local  
 7 access to vital medical care, including emergency  
 8 services and lower acuity medical care, the hospital  
 9 will enhance healthcare outcomes and reduce transit  
 10 times for emergencies.

11 I urge the State Board to approve this  
 12 essential project, which will be a tremendous asset to  
 13 our growing community. Thank you.

14 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

15 Next, the Board would like to call Ms. Dawn  
 16 Hunsberger.

17 MS. HUNSBERGER: Good afternoon. Dawn Hunsberger,  
 18 D-a-w-n, H-u-n-s-b-e-r-g-e-r, Roscoe resident.

19 I am afraid that the proposed NorthPointe  
 20 hospital may not be able to care for complex issues. My  
 21 biggest worry is that I may be transferred to a bigger  
 22 facility during a critical time, which could delay care.  
 23 This uncertainty about the hospital's capabilities make  
 24 me anxious about relying on it for emergencies.

1 north campus, because that is where we have the  
 2 healthcare professional shortage that has been discussed  
 3 before.

4 We are constantly expanding and developing our  
 5 healthcare team, including primary care physicians,  
 6 nurses, and care coordinators, and investing in staff  
 7 training for high-quality care. At every opportunity  
 8 presented, we will strengthen collaborations with local  
 9 organizations to address social determinants of health  
 10 and eliminate the care barriers, and promoting health  
 11 equity.

12 Primary care availability is crucial for good  
 13 health, helping patients with serious concerns, and  
 14 routine physicals and checkups. Lack of access burdens  
 15 our emergency systems with routine and preventable  
 16 conditions. We are creating the Gold Primary Care  
 17 Center named after Dr. Kenneth Gold, with a \$6.2 million  
 18 development to add 10 new providers and modernize our  
 19 clinic space, improving care access, and alleviating  
 20 emergency service burdens. We are investing in primary  
 21 care access.

22 Thank you for allowing me to speak today on  
 23 behalf of the Health System, and I offer my unwavering  
 24 support to the health system and its expansion

1 MR. ROATE: Thank you. Before I call our next  
 2 speaker, we do have some open seats up here if you'd all  
 3 like to come on up.

4 Next, the Board would like to call Keith  
 5 Kruse.

6 MR. KRUSE: Hi. I'm Keith Kruse. K-e-i-t-h,  
 7 K-r-u-s-e.

8 I'm Keith Kruse. I'm a resident of the  
 9 Stateline area and a member of the Beloit Health System  
 10 Foundation Board. I support this proposal to expand the  
 11 NorthPointe health programs as submitted to the Illinois  
 12 Planning Agency.

13 Beloit Health System has had a significant and  
 14 positive impact on healthcare in our community. As a  
 15 foundation board member, I reaffirm our commitment to  
 16 transforming healthcare delivery. A health system's  
 17 mission must ensure that everyone has a medical home for  
 18 comprehensive and personalized care.

19 We pledge significant resources to achieve  
 20 this, focusing on enhancing facilities and using  
 21 technology to streamline the care coordination. This  
 22 will improve care quality and reduce service  
 23 duplication, and this is particularly important at the  
 24 facility in our northern campus located in the -- in the

1 initiative to the NorthPointe campus. Thank you.

2 MR. ROATE: Thank you, sir.

3 Next, the Board would like to call Jennifer  
 4 Wessel.

5 MS. WESSEL: Hello. My name is Jennifer Wessel,  
 6 W-e-s-s-e-l.

7 I'm here to share my opposition regarding this  
 8 proposal. As I agree with many that spoke before, I  
 9 also share the same concern that was mentioned prior  
 10 regarding the fact that if I were to take my family to  
 11 NorthPointe, because of the resources that they are not  
 12 able to provide, the likelihood of us having to be  
 13 transferred to another hospital would be quite high.

14 And then having to incur that cost in addition  
 15 to the time that I was cared for at NorthPointe. Thank  
 16 you.

17 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

18 Next, the Board would like to call Ms. Sharon  
 19 Daily.

20 MS. DAILY: Good afternoon. My name is Sharon  
 21 Daily. I'm a resident of Roscoe and stand with the  
 22 Stateline community in supporting the plan to develop  
 23 the NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital on the Roscoe  
 24 campus.

1 This campus currently operates a birth center,  
 2 a fitness center, surgery center, immediate care center,  
 3 diagnostic facilities, an assisted living facility, as  
 4 well as physicians' offices. What we are missing is a  
 5 small hospital with an emergency department. The  
 6 investment is comparatively small, but the impact will  
 7 be extremely positive for the area residents.

8 As a small hospital, it will strengthen  
 9 competition, while not harming any of the bigger health  
 10 systems that haven't brought many services to Roscoe. A  
 11 small hospital in Roscoe will provide us with a local  
 12 alternative for emergency care and less complex  
 13 inpatient stays.

14 The closest emergency department is that of  
 15 Beloit Memorial Hospital. That program is extremely  
 16 busy and can have long wait times. The NorthPointe  
 17 neighborhood hospital emergency department will not only  
 18 be closer to home, but with shorter wait times allowing  
 19 patients the ability to return home more quickly as  
 20 well.

21 Additionally, while the current immediate care  
 22 center provides excellent treatment, I understand it  
 23 cannot accept ambulances. Having an emergency  
 24 department in Roscoe will reduce ambulance travel times

1 Beloit Health System is to lead in regional health and  
 2 wellness services, delivering high-quality care and  
 3 satisfaction to those we serve. One way we achieve  
 4 these goals is through the community health needs  
 5 assessment process.

6 This comprehensive review identifies  
 7 healthcare challenges facing residents in our service  
 8 area including South Beloit, Roscoe, and Rockton. The  
 9 proposed expansion of the NorthPointe Neighborhood  
 10 Hospital is a strategic initiative crucial to meeting  
 11 these goals.

12 As you know, Ascension Health, one of the  
 13 largest non-profit health systems in the US, is  
 14 transferring all of its Illinois operations to an  
 15 out-of-state for-profit company. Additionally, other  
 16 Illinois nonprofit health systems are consolidating or  
 17 closing services.

18 In contrast, we plan to expand access at the  
 19 NorthPointe campus in Roscoe for all patients,  
 20 regardless of their ability to pay. This ensures that  
 21 more Illinois patients can receive care within the  
 22 state.

23 Our assessment revealed a shortage of primary  
 24 care providers in northern Illinois. To address this,

1 when time is of the essence and allow the ambulance's  
 2 crews to stay in their respective communities to better  
 3 serve the people of their districts.

4 For these reasons, I fully support the  
 5 NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital and urge the Illinois  
 6 Health Facilities and Services Review Board to approve  
 7 this project. Thank you.

8 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

9 Next, the Board would like to call Jessica  
 10 Palumbo.

11 MS. PALUMBO: Hi. Good afternoon. My name is  
 12 Jessica Palumbo, P-a-l-u-m-b-o. I am a resident of  
 13 Roscoe, and I am concerned that the small NorthPointe  
 14 Hospital may lead to a delay in getting the care I or my  
 15 family need in an emergency.

16 How will I know what illnesses or injuries I  
 17 can go to there versus going to a larger hospital with a  
 18 trauma center.

19 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

20 The Board would like to call Bonnie Wetter.

21 MS. WETTER: My name is Bonnie Wetter, B-o-n-n-i-e,  
 22 W-e-t-t-e-r.

23 Good afternoon. I am proud to serve as the  
 24 Chair of the Beloit Health System Board. Our mission at

1 we have an active practitioner recruiting plan. This  
 2 expansion will help attract physicians to the area,  
 3 ensuring residents have timely access to essential  
 4 healthcare.

5 This initiative is vital for managing chronic  
 6 conditions, preventing disease, and promoting overall  
 7 health. We also identified a significant gap in  
 8 emergency medical services within our community.

9 The new neighborhood hospital will include a  
 10 full-service emergency department providing immediate  
 11 and critical care closer to home for the Stateline  
 12 community residents.

13 This will significantly reduce transit times  
 14 in emergencies, improving outcomes and potentially  
 15 saving lives. We will also retain our urgent care  
 16 services at this location to ensure every unscheduled  
 17 patient receives the care they need. Thank you.

18 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

19 Next, the Board would like to call Kim  
 20 Stewart.

21 MS. STEWART: Good afternoon. My name is Kim  
 22 Stewart, S-t-e-w-a-r-t.

23 As a Rockton resident, I'm concerned that the  
 24 proposed NorthPointe Hospital might drive healthcare

1 costs up in our area. With plenty of hospitals already  
2 available, I'm worried that adding another facility  
3 could lead to higher expenses for patients.

4 I think it is important to consider the  
5 potential financial impact on our community before  
6 moving forward with this hospital. Thank you.

7 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

8 Next, the Board would like to call Sharon  
9 McCardle.

10 MS. McCARDLE: I'm Sharon McCardle, S-h-a-r-o-n,  
11 M-c-C-a-r-d-l-e in support of the expansion.

12 We are fortunate to have the level of quality  
13 healthcare available, especially if we compare it to  
14 availability in southern Illinois. That said, gaps in  
15 care are inevitable.

16 Beloit Health System is proposing an emergency  
17 room and 10-bed hospital on their NorthPointe campus.  
18 It would fill one of the gaps. The closing of Mercy  
19 Health System emergency room on its's Rockton Avenue  
20 campus left the far north and western portions of  
21 Winnebago County vulnerable. Not all traumas or  
22 emergencies require a Level 1 trauma center.

23 Durand, Shirland, and Harrison, as well as  
24 Rockton and Roscoe, would benefit from an emergency room

1 further care would be an asset to our community.  
2 thank you.

3 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

4 Next, the Board would like to call Ms. Lauren  
5 Roesch.

6 MS. ROESCH: Good afternoon. My name is Lauren  
7 Roesch, R-o-e-s-c-h. I'm a Rockton resident, and I'm  
8 worried that this small NorthPointe hospital is going to  
9 lead to delay in care that myself or my family members  
10 might need in an emergency situation. And how, as a  
11 community member, are we supposed to know which  
12 illnesses or injuries we're able to go to NorthPointe  
13 for, versus go to a larger hospital with a trauma center  
14 for that situation? Thank you.

15 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

16 Next, the Board would like to call Mr. Mark  
17 Gliebe.

18 MR. GLIEBE: Mark Gliebe, M-a-r-k, G-l-i-e-b-e.

19 Good afternoon. My name is Mark Gliebe, and  
20 I'm a recent member of the Board of Directors of Beloit  
21 Health Systems where I served as a director for over 10  
22 years. I was also the former Chairman and CEO of Regal  
23 Beloit Corporation. And having served in that role, I  
24 recognize and understand the critical role that a robust

1 that didn't require a drive through city traffic.  
2 Proximity to the Interstate is also a plus.

3 Fire departments take patients to the facility  
4 of their choice. Patients decide according to insurance  
5 coverage and/or severity of injury. Javon Bea Hospital  
6 will still receive patients from outlying towns.

7 For the last 40 years, Mercy's presence in the  
8 Rockton/Roscoe area has been limited to OB GYNE and  
9 pediatrics. That clinic was closed during COVID  
10 precautions. Shortly after the Beloit Health System  
11 proposal was made public, we were told Mercy would open  
12 a 24/7 immediate care. Why now, after 40 years. The  
13 timing appears to be a counter-measure to block  
14 NorthPointe expansion.

15 Threats and promises were made during  
16 negotiations. One of those promises was to keep the  
17 Rockton Avenue Emergency Room open. Mercy refused to  
18 accept certain insurances, resulting in the more  
19 indigent patients seeking other treatment options.  
20 Smaller patient load contributed to the closure of the  
21 Rockton Avenue ER.

22 NorthPointe has provided much needed services  
23 and has been a respected community partner. An  
24 emergency room and hospital beds for those who need

1 health system plays in our community.

2 I'm here today in support of the NorthPointe  
3 Neighborhood Hospital. Having been a part of the  
4 leadership team for a nonprofit health system, I can  
5 speak to the unwavering commitment to both the Illinois  
6 and Wisconsin communities that we serve. Our mission is  
7 simple: To provide exceptional health and wellness  
8 services that deliver high quality, value, and  
9 satisfaction to our patients.

10 As a nonprofit organization, we serve all  
11 patients, whether you have insurance or not. Our  
12 hospital contracts with all health plans who are willing  
13 to partner with us, ensuring that our services are  
14 accessible to as many people as possible.

15 Our organization is more than just a place for  
16 medical treatment; it is a cornerstone of this  
17 community. We are deeply invested in the health and  
18 wellness of every resident. If you have not had the  
19 opportunity to see the NorthPointe facility here in  
20 Roscoe, I encourage you to go out and take a look. It  
21 is an absolute gem.

22 The investments we have made in the community  
23 are just incredible. We have state-of-the-art workout  
24 facilities, an indoor pool, an urgent care facility, and

1 our most recent investment, a warm and welcoming birth  
2 center for mothers choosing to giving birth outside of a  
3 hospital setting.

4 Our dedicated staff works tirelessly to  
5 provide care that is not only high in quality, but also  
6 delivered with empathy and respect. By the way,  
7 speaking of high quality, you may notice in local Beloit  
8 Health System advertisements, two letter As posted  
9 side-by-side.

10 The two lime green As represent the letter  
11 grades that the health system has received from  
12 LeapFrog, an independent watchdog group. Beloit Health  
13 System is currently the only health care organization in  
14 the region that can make that quality achievement claim.

15 My wife Beth and I have been residents in  
16 Roscoe since 2006, and we raised our two children in  
17 this wonderful community. In that time, as I'm sure  
18 most of you can experience, we had our share of trips to  
19 the hospital for my daughter's severely dislocated hand,  
20 my son's third-degree burns from boiling water, and my  
21 wife's two broken bones.

22 While the care we received from the Beloit  
23 Health systems for those emergencies was wonderful, it  
24 would have been much less stressful for me as the driver

1 with additional competition. But the anomaly that  
2 really already exists in the county is known to raise  
3 health care costs. And so this competition will be  
4 something that is very good for competition in the  
5 immediate area.

6 I did want to address this question about  
7 excess of beds, and I want to echo Dr. Abernethy's  
8 statement about the technical access of beds which  
9 appear to not exist. The entire state of Illinois is  
10 mostly technically over bedded in medical-surgical beds.  
11 The whole state has in excess of 4,046 accessed beds.

12 But most recently, I have spoke to a health  
13 planner at one of the largest health systems, and she  
14 said that they are bursting at the seams and they do not  
15 know where to put patients, similar to Dr. Abernethy's  
16 concern. This bed inventory does not help the board as  
17 much as we would like it to.

18 There have been some efforts in the past to  
19 hold hospitals accountable to prove their beds actually  
20 exist and could be used to care for a patient. We do  
21 know that in this area, the Belvidere Hospital is not  
22 taking admissions, and they have over 30 beds that are  
23 not used. So you really ought to take a closer look and  
24 find out if there are really just beds sitting open, or

1 of the car going 80 or 90 miles on Route I-90, and much  
2 safer to have had the hospital right here down the road.

3 Thank you for your trust, and I support the  
4 neighborhood hospital.

5 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

6 Next, the Board would like to call Mr. E.  
7 Patrick Cranley. E. Patrick Cranley?

8 Next, the Board would like to call Ms. Kara  
9 Friedman.

10 MS. FRIEDMAN: I'm Kara Friedman, K-a-r-a,  
11 F-r-i-e-d-m-a-n. I'm one of the attorneys for Beloit  
12 Health System. I'm a health planner for many years. I  
13 work at a law firm, Polsinelli.

14 First of all, I'm curious to know of the  
15 people that have come here today and indicated that they  
16 are concerned about confusion about where patients are  
17 going to go. I have honestly never heard a community  
18 resident oppose creation of a healthcare system in their  
19 community except for maybe one time when Lurie  
20 Children's Hospital was putting a helicopter pad near  
21 their condo building. So it seems a bit disingenuous  
22 that people wouldn't want this healthcare resource in  
23 their community.

24 Some people are concerned about rising costs

1 perhaps some of those beds are ghost beds.

2 What we do know is that Illinois residents  
3 living in the Stateline community leave the state for  
4 care in Wisconsin. And the low admissions alone justify  
5 the planned 10 bends.

6 The only other thing that I think is really  
7 important to note is if your family member needs  
8 emergency medical services, call EMS. My son just got  
9 certified as an EMS technician. And they learned a lot  
10 about field triage, and whether patients are going to --  
11 there's a whole EMS system that makes sure trauma goes  
12 to a trauma hospital, heart attack or stroke goes to a  
13 specialized center that has cardiac cath or a primary  
14 stroke center. So I'm not concerned about patient  
15 confusion if this hospital actually has an emergency  
16 room and beds. Thank you.

17 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

18 Next, the Board would like to call Mr. Thomas  
19 Dammon, D-a-m-m-o-n.

20 The Board would like to call Anne Cooper.

21 MS. COOPER: Hello. My name is Anne Cooper,  
22 A-n-n-e, C-o-o-p-e-r, and I am also an attorney for  
23 Beloit Health System representing them for the  
24 NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital.

1 The proposed NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital  
2 project aims to address critical healthcare needs in the  
3 underserved Stateline community. However, the  
4 opposition from larger systems, OSF and Mercyhealth  
5 raises concerns about healthcare consolidation and  
6 market competition. Both have recently or are currently  
7 part of transactions to consolidate their markets.

8 The NorthPointe project would expand  
9 healthcare services in an underserved area, improving  
10 access to care for local residents. Efforts by larger  
11 systems to block this proposal could negatively impact  
12 healthcare access and limit patient options.

13 The coordinated attempt by competing health  
14 systems to exclude a smaller provider highlights  
15 problematic trends in healthcare consolidation.

16 Certificate of Need laws, originally intended  
17 to control costs, are being exploited to block  
18 competition from smaller market entrants. As recently  
19 reported by Beckers, large health systems have reported  
20 significant profits in 2024, with average operating  
21 margins reaching nearly 5 percent in recent months.

22 Smaller organizations like Beloit Health  
23 System have less financial flexibility compared to  
24 larger competitors, though it has maintained an A rating

1 incredible job every day being our heros, other area  
2 spokespersons and elected officials, and my colleagues  
3 including physicians, staff, leadership team, board  
4 members. It is an incredible honor to work with you as  
5 we have continued to plan for this neighborhood hospital  
6 in Roscoe.

7 Again, I want to thank you Illinois Health  
8 Facilities and Services Review Board staff who planned  
9 and facilitated this meeting.

10 I want to conclude this meeting by really  
11 going back to our esteemed CEO McKeivitt's remarks when  
12 he said the planned NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital,  
13 again, is an extension of our original vision of the  
14 Roscoe campus.

15 And we are proud to further invest in the  
16 health, but also the wellness of the Roscoe campus, and  
17 the residents, and the Stateline community members that  
18 really this development is going to be targeted in the  
19 state of Illinois.

20 Neighborhood hospitals offer similar service  
21 lines as more traditional hospitals, but with a smaller  
22 footprint supporting areas that do not need a large  
23 hospital, but lack services immediately in the  
24 community.

1 for its bonds.

2 Mercyhealth and OSF have substantially more  
3 cash reserves than BHS along with other indicators of  
4 financial strength.

5 Small, independent hospitals often introduce  
6 innovative approaches to healthcare delivery, and  
7 excluding smaller competitors, may impede the  
8 introduction of new ideas and more efficient practices  
9 in the market.

10 Thank you for your time.

11 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

12 Next, the Board would like to call E. Patrick  
13 Cranley. E. Patrick Cranley.

14 Seeing none, lastly we'd like to call  
15 Dr. Roger Kapor.

16 MR. KAPOR: Good afternoon. Don't worry. This is  
17 not my testimony.

18 All right. See here we go. Much better. I'm  
19 Roger, R-o-g-e-r, K-a-p-o-r. I'm the Senior Vice  
20 President for the Beloit Health System.

21 And I want to start off with just a special  
22 thanks to all of you for a very productive dialogue this  
23 afternoon, from certainly members of our community, to  
24 the fire protection, first responders who do such an

1 10 beds is a typical size for these hospitals.  
2 Neighborhood hospitals provide better geographic access  
3 to patients and improve the ability of hospitalized  
4 patients to receive family care when they need it most.  
5 This is particularly important in medically underserved  
6 communities like Roscoe.

7 Neighborhood hospitals are gaining traction as  
8 more healthcare providers optimize service lines to  
9 develop patient-centered value-based care, satisfying  
10 consumers' desire for convenience and ease of access.  
11 As mentioned, the Illinois' Health and Hospitals  
12 Association supports the development of these models.

13 And as my colleague Ms. Nommo Donald mentioned  
14 earlier, our proposal is consistent with those  
15 guidelines in the way they have been developed. In  
16 fact, our proposal is very similar to the small format  
17 hospital that Mercyhealth recently opened in Crystal  
18 Lake.

19 Keep this in mind when you hear any opposition  
20 to this model. Because obviously if the format benefits  
21 our competitors, the model is okay. But if it is  
22 proposed by a competitor, as this proposal is, there's a  
23 tendency for that opposition to become a little bit more  
24 scrutiny applied to the plan that we are putting in.



1 And even level criticism against the model that they  
2 just recently deployed.

3 This is a small extension of our current  
4 footprints, and objections, again like those from  
5 Mercyhealth, are really telling of a health system that  
6 goes to great lengths to pull out all of the stops to  
7 expand its market share while trying to block another  
8 mission-based non-for-profit health system that is also  
9 qualified as a charitable organization, especially given  
10 its beliefs in and the development, again, of their own  
11 small format hospital in Crystal Lake. It makes these  
12 objections seem to really lack genuine merit.

13 And as the Mercyhealth CEO in his testimony at  
14 the time mentioned how important the continuity of care  
15 is relative to outpatient services, all I can say is we  
16 agree. We have built the outpatient infrastructure as  
17 our current campus is set up with a broad stroke of  
18 outpatient services, primary care, and specialty  
19 physicians, many of which are in the room today.

20 While urgent care centers now play a more  
21 prominent role in healthcare delivery than they did say  
22 10 or 15 years ago, they fall short of what the  
23 Stateline community needs. This neighborhood hospital  
24 will provide more comprehensive care than urgent care

1 community members. This is what it is all about. And  
2 they are offering their support. They are offering  
3 their support for our plans.

4 We have built a great track record in  
5 expanding healthcare resources for the Stateline  
6 community. And this community's support, sincerely, it  
7 means a lot. That is why we are in healthcare. We hope  
8 the support informs the State Board, as we move forward  
9 to present our plans in fall.

10 Thanks again for everybody -- for your time,  
11 and for the effort you put into supporting this project.  
12 We'll continue to do our best to make sure patients have  
13 the right care, at the right time, and the right place  
14 to build the healthiest community we can for this  
15 beautiful Stateline community. Thank you.

16 MR. ROATE: Thank you. Is there anyone who wishes  
17 to provide additional testimony?

18 Please give the court reporter your name and  
19 correct spelling.

20 MS. SANKEY: Kara, K-a-r-a, Sankey, S-a-n-k-e-y.

21 Hello. My name is Kara Sankey. I'm the Vice  
22 President of Nursing from Mercyhealth. I'd just like to  
23 correct one of the statements that was made prior about  
24 the Rockton Avenue emergency room being closed. It is

1 centers, but without the perceived complexity of a  
2 larger hospital.

3 At the same time, as a Stateline location of  
4 our hospital is in Beloit as a satellite location, we'll  
5 have an opportunity to transfer patients who have  
6 specialized care needs that will more be easily  
7 addressed either on our campus or another provider's  
8 campus, of course pursuant to the patient's choice.

9 The planned NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital  
10 will increase access to emergency care and inpatient  
11 care. The existing immediate care center does not meet  
12 all of the needs in the community. And nothing about  
13 expanding the hours of that operation or that of  
14 Mercyhealth's urgent care facility will address the need  
15 for emergency patients, and especially not those who  
16 require hospitalization.

17 Expanding hours will not allow the immediate  
18 care center to accept patients with cardiac or other  
19 serious emergent illnesses and injuries, nor can they  
20 accept ambulance transports. Urgent care services do  
21 not address emergency access and needs in Roscoe,  
22 Rockton, or South Beloit.

23 To conclude my remarks, I'm happy to deliver  
24 to the agency a petition that is signed by over 1100

1 not closed. It is open. It is a stand-by emergency  
2 department. Thank you.

3 MS. FRIEDMAN: Just briefly, I'm Kara Friedman  
4 again. I just wanted to point out, because a lot of  
5 people don't know about the complexities of health  
6 planning and that sort of go over our heads here.

7 Here in the State of Illinois, an existing  
8 hospital is permitted to add 20 beds every two years  
9 without Planning Board approval unless they spend in  
10 excess of about \$17 million.

11 So all these other hospitals in the area are  
12 free to continue building and to splitting out their  
13 projects so that in each project they spend less than  
14 \$17 million. And this leads to two and a half, \$3  
15 billion of spending every year.

16 So I think that looking at this as a really  
17 significant project, it is for the community of the  
18 Stateline residents. But this is a very small project,  
19 both cost-efficient and relative impact that it would  
20 have on the area.

21 So thank you for letting me provide that just  
22 additional context.

23 MR. ROATE: Okay. Is there anyone who wishes to  
24 provide additional testimony who has not had an

1 opportunity?  
2 Seeing none, is there anyone who has testified  
3 who wishes to provide additional testimony?

4 I would remind everyone to submit your written  
5 comments to us so that we may have this information for  
6 the record.

7 Also, this project is scheduled for  
8 consideration by the Illinois Health Facilities and  
9 Services Review Board at its October 29th, 2024 meeting.  
10 This meeting will be held at the Bolingbrook Golf Club,  
11 2001 Rodeo Drive, Bolingbrook, Illinois.

12 The public has until October 9th to submit  
13 their comments. These comments can be sent to my  
14 attention at the Illinois Health Facilities and Services  
15 Review Board, care of the Illinois Department of Public  
16 Health, 525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor,  
17 Springfield, Illinois, 62761-0001.

18 If you prefer, you may e-mail your comments.  
19 Our e-mail address is [dph.hfsrb@illinois.gov](mailto:dph.hfsrb@illinois.gov).

20 I'd like to remind you again for those of you  
21 in the parking lot, as you leave please go to the right  
22 to avoid backing up traffic. And to those on the road,  
23 enter traffic carefully since this has become a busy  
24 time of day.

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
 ) SS:  
2 COUNTY OF C O O K )  
3  
4

5 I, GINA M. TOMASONE, a Certified Shorthand  
6 Reporter of the State of Illinois and Notary Public of  
7 the County of Cook, do hereby certify that I caused the  
8 proceedings in the above-captioned cause to be reported  
9 in shorthand and that the foregoing is a true, complete,  
10 and correct transcript of said proceedings as appears  
11 from my stenographic notes so taken and transcribed  
12 under my personal direction.

13 IN WITNESS WHEREOF I do hereunto set my hand and  
14 affix my notarial seal at Chicago, Illinois, this  
15 day of , 20 .  
16  
17

18 GINA M. TOMASONE, CSR  
19 C.S.R. License No. 084-003763  
20 Notary Public, Cook County, Illinois  
21  
22  
23  
24

1 Are there any questions? Seeing that there  
2 are no additional questions or comments, I deem this  
3 public hearing adjourned. Thank you.

4 (Which were all the proceedings  
5 had in the above-entitled cause  
6 on this date.)  
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