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Transcript of Public Hearing

Date: July 15, 2025

Case: State of Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

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1 ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
2 HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD
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6 Project #24-018 -
7 NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital
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11 PUBLIC HEARING
12 BEFORE PROGRAM REVIEWER- GEORGE ROATE
13

14 Roscoe, Illinois
15 Tuesday, July 15, 2025
16 2:00 p.m.
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20
21

22 Job No.: 591970

23 Pages: 1 - 90

24 Recorded By: Brianna Bramlett

1 PUBLIC HEARING, held at the location of:

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5 Roscoe Township Community Center

6 4562 Hononegah Road

7 Roscoe, Illinois 61073

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13 Pursuant to agreement, before Brianna Bramlett,

14 Notary Public, in and for the State of Illinois.

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A P P E A R A N C E S

ADMINISTRATOR:

JOHN KNIERY, ESQUIRE
ILLINOIS HEALTH FACILITIES AND
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD (CONTRACT #12300001I)
525 W. Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761
(217) 782-3516

ALSO PRESENT:

Mike Constantino - Senior Board Reviewer
Gary Kaatz - Board Member
Blanca Dominguez - Board Legal Counsel
Sharie Ryan - Board Operations Manager
Carmen Chastain - Board Operations Agent

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1 SPEAKERS:

2 Timothy McKeveatt - President/CEO Beloit

3 Mark Gridley - President/CEO FHN

4 Bonnie Wetter - Chair Beloit

5 Dr. Clarence Parks - Chief Medical Officer FHN

6 Jeni Hallatt - Vice President Mercyhealth

7 Mark Gridley - President/CEO FHN

8 Kevin Briggs - Deputy Chief Harlem-Roscoe Fire

9 Kim Scace - On behalf of Senator Chesney

10 Shelly Grigoroff - Chief of Staff State

11 Representative Cabello

12 Dr. Binn Jatta - OBGYN

13 Sharon Cox - Chief Nursing Officer Beloit

14 Carol Gustafson - President Village of Roscoe

15 Dr. Kenneth Klein - Resident Roscoe

16 Nommo Donald - Vice President Beloit

17 Nicole Kovarik - Director of ER Beloit

18 John Peterson - Mayor of Rockton, IL

19 Dr. Edward Nabrinsky - Hematologist/Oncologist

20 Mark Gliebe - Board Member Beloit

21 Sharon Hecox - Executive Director

22 Tom McCawley - Vice President Human Resources

23 Beloit

24

1 SPEAKERS (Continued) :

2 Dr. Andrew Dean - ER Physician/Medical Director

3 Beloit

4 Sam Hawley - Chief of Police Roscoe

5 Melissa Salaam - Director of Transitional Care

6 Michael Wright - Member Village Board Roscoe

7 Laura Neece - On behalf of Beloit Sky Carp

8 Chris Shepard - On behalf Hospital

9 Dr. Marek Lisek - Internal Medicine Physician

10 Beloit

11 Josh Perez - Director of NorthPointe Wellness

12 Gus Larson - Director of NorthPointe Campus

13 Roger Kapoor - Senior Vice President Beloit

14 Linette Nilson - Citizen

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

2 MR. ROATE: This is your review board.
3 Just a little bit of housekeeping before the
4 meeting gets underway. We have plenty of room up
5 front. Please feel free to come in and have a
6 seat. I apologize. We may not have enough chairs
7 to seat everybody, but we do hope you find a seat.

8 For those of you who wish to speak
9 before the board, before the congregation today,
10 please be aware that there is a serious hazard
11 here, so approach the table from here, for your
12 safety, and we'll get started in a couple of
13 minutes. Thank you.

14 My name is George Roate. I am
15 accompanied by Mr. John Kniery, Board
16 Administrator. Ms. Blanca Dominguez, Board Legal
17 Counsel. She's with us online. Mr. Gary Kaatz,
18 Board Member. Mr. Mike Constantino, Senior Board
19 Reviewer. Ms. Sharie Ryan, Board Operations
20 Manager, and Carmen Chastain, Board Operations
21 Agent.

22 We are from the Illinois Department of
23 Public Health and represent the Illinois Health
24 Facilities and Services Review Board. We're here

1 to conduct a public hearing on the proposed
2 project known as Project 24-018 NorthPointe
3 Neighborhood Hospital, Roscoe. As per the rules
4 of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services
5 Review Board, I would like to read the legal
6 notice into record.

7 In accordance with the requirements of
8 the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act,
9 notice is given of receipt of a request for a
10 public hearing for Project 24-018 NorthPointe
11 Neighborhood Hospital to modify their existing
12 application to establish a ten bed, small format
13 hospital, located at 5605 East Rockton Road,
14 Roscoe, Illinois.

15 The current project cost is \$20,760,312.
16 Big smile. Big smile. The applicants have
17 submitted a Type A, I apologize. The applicants
18 have submitted a Type A modification, increasing
19 the project cost to \$21,974,716, and adding
20 NorthPointe Health NFP Corporation, doing business
21 as NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital as an
22 applicant.

23 A public hearing will be conducted by
24 the staff of the Illinois Health Facilities and

Transcript of Public Hearing
Conducted on July 15, 2025

10

1 Services Review Board on Tuesday, July 15, 2025,
2 beginning at 2:00 P.M. At the Roscoe Township
3 Community Center at Founders Park, located at 4562
4 Hononegah Road, Roscoe, Illinois. I think I got
5 Hononegah.

6 The public hearing is to be held by the
7 Illinois Department of Public Health pursuant to
8 the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act. The
9 hearing is open to the public and will afford an
10 opportunity for parties with interest to present
11 written and or verbal comment relevant to the
12 project.

13 All allegations or assertions should be
14 relevant to the need for the proposed project and
15 be supported with two copies of documentation or
16 materials that are printed or typed on paper, size
17 eight and one half by 11 inches. Consideration by
18 the State Board has been tentatively scheduled for
19 the September 25th, 2025 Illinois Health
20 Facilities and Services Review Board meeting.

21 If you have not done so, please sign in
22 using the appropriate registration forms. One
23 form is for individuals who wish to provide
24 testimony in favor or opposition to the project.

1 A second form is available for individuals to
2 register their attendance who do not wish to
3 testify.

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

15 The authorization shall allow the
16 covered entity to share the individual's protected
17 health information at this hearing. Those of you
18 who came with prepared text for your presentation
19 may choose to submit that text without giving
20 testimony. However, if you are giving oral
21 testimony, we ask that you please be as brief as
22 possible.

23 Due to the number of individuals who
24 have expressed an interest in providing testimony,

1 I must limit the oral presentation to three
2 minutes. As per the legal notice, I would
3 appreciate two copies of your testimony. When you
4 make your presentation, please give the court
5 reporter the spelling of your complete name.

6 We have identified a chief spokesperson
7 for that applicant, and they will be called to
8 make their first presentation. The remaining
9 testimony will be taken in the order of the names
10 on the registers. Please hold your questions
11 until all testimony is presented. Thank you.

12 First, the board would like to call Mr. Timothy
13 McKevett.

14 MR. MCKEVETT: Thank you. Good
15 afternoon. My name is Tim McKevett. I have the
16 honor and privilege of being the president and CEO
17 of Beloit Health System. I'd like to thank Mark
18 Gridley, President and CEO of Freeport FHN,
19 Freeport, Illinois, representatives from FHN,
20 community representatives and other members of the
21 community, and our clinicians who have taken time
22 out of their busy schedules to attend this public
23 hearing to support our planned NorthPointe
24 Neighborhood Hospital here in Roscoe.

1 I would also like to thank the Illinois
2 Health Facilities and Services Review Board staff
3 and board members for organizing this public
4 hearing and for coming here from Springfield.
5 It's so great to have you here in our community to
6 visit our vibrant state line area to better
7 appreciate this planned update to our campus,
8 which represents a far improvement in access and
9 services for the Illinois residents that we serve.

10 In the days approaching the hearing, we
11 were very excited to announce a collaboration of
12 Beloit Health System and FHN on the development of
13 NorthPointe Health. Together, we have formed this
14 new Illinois, not for profit corporation to create
15 the planned NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital.

16 This new mission-based Illinois
17 healthcare organization is being jointly sponsored
18 by our two organizations with the goals of
19 enhancing services already provided here at our
20 NorthPointe campus in Roscoe, and to align our two
21 independent health system organizations to build
22 stronger together.

23 The plan set out previously for further
24 development of the campus to provide inpatient

1 care and a comprehensive emergency department will
2 go forward with this new organization, which will
3 operate as an Illinois, tax-exempt 501(c)(3)
4 organization, and as originally conceived, the
5 hospital will accept all patients regardless of
6 their payer mix, sources, and ability to pay.

7 We are proud of our wellness, senior
8 living, and health care offerings in Roscoe and we
9 have consistently expanded our commitment to
10 services and access to care in the community since
11 we opened in 2007. NorthPointe Campus now
12 consists of a broad range of physician clinic
13 services, both primary and specialty care, an
14 ambulatory surgery center, an immediate care
15 center, diagnostic lab imaging services,
16 NorthPointe Wellness, which is a medical
17 integrated fitness facility, NorthPointe Terrace,
18 which is a senior residential care facility for
19 assisted living.

20 And last year, we were very excited that
21 we were approved and opened the Innovative
22 NorthPointe Birth Center, offering an alternative
23 care model for uncomplicated pregnancies, labor,
24 delivery, and postpartum care. Given birth is

1 often described as one of the most profound
2 experiences in a woman's life. We are proud and
3 humbled to now offer this model to a more natural
4 and family centered care experience.

5 NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital is an
6 extension of our original vision for the campus.
7 This planned hospital will have ten beds and will
8 provide 24/7, 365 emergency medical services with
9 associated ancillary services that are consistent
10 with a typical small format hospital. Most of the
11 required support services are already existing and
12 in place and will facilitate a low cost conversion
13 of the facility to our existing, to our existing
14 NorthPointe services into this hospital. This
15 proposal conforms with the cost and size standards
16 of the board.

17 Both the White Health System and FHN
18 share a commitment to provide expert and
19 compassionate care to the communities in the
20 region. Our collaboration with an Illinois based
21 charitable care hospital will lead to better
22 problem solving, peer learning, shared purpose,
23 and innovative ideas for a planned NorthPointe
24 Neighborhood Hospital, without duplicating or

1 creating new beds in the state of Illinois.

2 The NorthPointe collaboration will open
3 doors to opportunities and create new value for
4 both organizations. It will enable us to identify
5 performance gaps, develop innovative solutions,
6 update practices, and learn from each other to
7 improve our stewardship of the area's healthcare
8 resources.

9 As we move forward in this process, we
10 revolved our strategy to strengthen our
11 organization's presence as a mission driven,
12 non-profit health system, strong roots in the
13 state line community by partnering with another
14 like-minded Illinois Based Community Hospital in
15 the region.

16 In so doing, we think both NorthPointe
17 Campus and FHN will be well suited. So often you
18 see systems like our opposition, OSF and Mercy,
19 scaling back services as they expand their
20 footprint through acquisitions. Diversifying
21 organizations like NorthPointe Health, serving the
22 area provides an important advantage of helping to
23 ensure healthcare access to the state line
24 community for years to come.

1 With Mercy, now closing, what was the
2 original hospital on Rockford on Rockford's West
3 Side, the timing couldn't be better. For those of
4 you haven't heard, just two weeks ago, Mercy
5 abruptly closed its Rockton Avenue Hospital
6 despite repeated assurances that it was committed
7 to that campus.

8 In fact, ten years ago, at an HFSRB
9 meeting, when Javon Bea of Riverside Hospital was
10 approved, Mercy confirmed that their organization
11 was, and I quote from the president and CEO Javon
12 Bea, absolutely committed to the hundred and 30
13 year history on west side Rockford and to the
14 mission.

15 In 2020, to gain permission to close the
16 inpatient psychiatric unit at that location,
17 Mercy's chief medical officer once again
18 reaffirmed its commitment to the Rockton Avenue
19 campus. Finally, three years ago, Mercy closed
20 the campus, med search beds. Once again, Mercy
21 did not did not address the failed commitment to
22 the community.

23 On this heel of this significant closure
24 of services by Mercy, we are proud to step up and

1 fill the void Mercy is creating, and particularly
2 in partnership with FHN for the Northwest
3 Rockford, and Illinois region. I thank everyone
4 here today standing beside us to emphasize to the
5 state the importance of this proposal to improve
6 access and quality of care within the community.
7 Thank you.

8 MR. ROATE: Thank you, sir. Okay.
9 Next, the board would like to call Ms. Bonnie
10 Wetter. Ms. Wetter, if you can please use the
11 mic.

12 MS. WETTER: Yes.

13 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

14 MS. WETTER: It's Bonnie Wetter,
15 W-E-T-T-E-R. Bonnie Wetter, and I am honored to
16 serve as chair of the Beloit Health System Board.
17 Today, I am proud to support plans for expanding
18 services at NorthPointe Campus. While we
19 initially launched the NorthPointe expansion
20 independently, we are now delighted to partner
21 with FHN Memorial Hospital, a like-minded health
22 system based in Freeport, Illinois.

23 Our mission is to be the region's leader
24 in health and wellness service, providing

1 exceptional care and ensuring the satisfaction of
2 everyone we serve. A key way we pursue this
3 mission is through our community health needs
4 assessment, a thorough review that identifies the
5 most pressing health care challenges facing
6 residents in our service area, including South
7 Beloit, Roscoe, and Rockton.

8 The proposed expansion of NorthPointe
9 Neighborhood Hospital is a strategic initiative
10 that plays a vital role in addressing these needs
11 and advancing our mission. While there may be
12 differing perspectives of our proposal, namely
13 from our primary competitor, as a non-profit
14 health system, we maintain a robust financial
15 assistance policy, ensuring care for all patients
16 regardless of their ability to pay.

17 We offer free or discounted services to
18 insure uninsured and under-insured individuals,
19 including those covered by Medicaid and other care
20 programs. Our designation as both a Illinois
21 Medicaid disproportionate share hospital, and as a
22 Medicare disproportionate share hospital,
23 underscores our commitment to serving low income
24 populations and addressing the financial

1 challenges posed by uninsured patients and lower
2 reimbursement rates.

3 Add on payments are essential to offset
4 these burdens. Also, it is important to note that
5 the physical plant for a small hospital is readily
6 available at the NorthPointe campus. So Roscoe is
7 a logical location for the expansion of services.
8 Constructing a new facility at another location
9 would be both financially imprudent and
10 substantially more expensive.

11 Our plan with Freeport ensures that more
12 Illinois patients can receive care within the
13 state. This is critical as we see consistent out
14 migration to Wisconsin for care. Beyond needs for
15 inpatient care, our community health needs
16 assessment revealed a shortage of primary care
17 providers in northern Illinois.

18 To assure this, to address this, we have
19 an active practitioner recruiting plan, and now
20 have over two dozen professionals practicing at
21 our NorthPointe campus. These plans will help
22 attract physicians to the area, ensuring residents
23 have more timely access to physician care, which
24 has become more critical over time. We can better

1 manage chronic conditions, prevent disease, and
2 promote overall health. Thank you for your time
3 and consideration.

4 MR. ROATE: Thank you. Next, the board
5 would like to call Dr. Clarence Parks.

6 DR. PARKS: Good afternoon. My spelling
7 is C-L-A-R-E-N-C-E. Parks, P-A-R-K-S. All right.
8 Good afternoon, everyone. I am Dr. Clarence
9 Parks. I have been at FHN in Freeport, Illinois
10 for over 23 years, and I'm the current chief
11 medical officer and former president of the
12 medical staff.

13 I am also a professor at the University
14 of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford, and I
15 have invested in public health initiatives for the
16 region in several different roles over the years
17 of service. I am also the president of the
18 Stephenson County Board of Health. As a
19 representative of FHN, I am honored to offer my
20 strong support for the proposed NorthPointe
21 Hospital.

22 This ten bed hospital is more than an
23 addition to our region's infrastructure. It is a
24 vital step toward addressing a gap in emergency

1 care. Our partnership with another like-minded
2 health system is grounded in a shared commitment
3 to the health and well being of the residents of
4 Illinois. Beloit Health Systems establish
5 outpatient presence in Roscoe, demonstrating their
6 dedication to Illinois residents. And together,
7 we are uniquely positioned to address urgent local
8 needs.

9 This collaboration is not just about
10 expanding services. It is about building
11 resilience and improving health outcomes for a
12 region that has long been underserved. Like many
13 healthcare organizations across the country, FHN
14 faces pressures from rising operational costs. As
15 well as an increasingly complex payer system, and
16 government reimbursement shortfalls. It is
17 impossible to ignore the profound challenges that
18 lie ahead for healthcare providers.

19 Particularly in the face of impending
20 Medicaid cuts, which is a crucial lifeline for our
21 facility, covering many of our residents,
22 including children, seniors, and individuals with
23 disabilities. So in closing, NorthPointe Hospital
24 represents hope and progress for our region. It

1 is an investment in health, safety, and dignity
2 for every resident. We respectfully call on the
3 agency to support the -- this vital project and to
4 recognize the urgent need for policies that
5 sustain, not weaken our healthcare safety net.
6 The future of our community depends on it. Thank
7 you.

8 MR. ROATE: Next, the board would like
9 to call Ms. Jeni Hallatt.

10 MS. HALLATT: Good afternoon. I'm Jeni
11 Hallatt, J-E-N-I. Thank you. Microphone works.
12 There we go. Thank you. All right. Jeni
13 Hallett, J-E-N-I H-A-L-L-A-T-T. So I'm Jeni
14 Hallatt. I'm the vice president at Mercyhealth.
15 I am here today with much of the same concerns I
16 have raised at previous public hearings and at the
17 October board meeting, where this project was
18 denied. The material nature of Beloit Health
19 System's proposal has not changed. And thus, the
20 same concerns about the lack of need and patient
21 safety remains.

22 The residents of Roscoe, Rockton, and
23 the surrounding communities are blessed to reside
24 in an area that includes so many options for

1 obtaining healthcare services. Within 20 miles of
2 the proposed facility, there's seven hospitals,
3 four of which are in Illinois. Two of those are
4 Level 1 trauma centers. There are eight existing
5 emergency departments, and ninth under
6 Construction. There are more than 12 urgent care
7 and immediate cares in that same area.

8 When you put a sign on a facility that
9 says hospital, it means something to the public.
10 It's a sense of safety and security, and it's
11 assumed that the hospital has the level of
12 services necessary to care for an emergency. In
13 order to care for the vast array of emergencies,
14 you need a variety of specialists, immediately
15 available for the care of the patient. You need
16 necessary equipment and facilities.

17 What happens when there's two patients
18 needing emergent surgery, and there's only one OR?
19 Even if you find a second surgeon and nursing
20 team, where are you going to do the surgery? And
21 where are these physicians coming from? The
22 application still does not provide any assurance
23 to the level of on site physician support to care
24 for the needs of a patient coming to a hospital

1 emergency room.

2 This project continues to be unnecessary
3 and will cause confusion for residents in this
4 community, thus posing a concern for safety. For
5 these reasons and many others, I believe this
6 project should be denied. Thank you.

7 MR. ROATE: Next, the board would like
8 to call Mr. Mark Gridley.

9 MR. GRIDLEY: Thank you. Thank you,
10 sir. Good afternoon. I'm Mark Gridley, M-A-R-K
11 G-R-I-D-L-E-Y. Okay. So I'm Mark Gridley,
12 president and CEO for FHN, in Freeport. And as a
13 representative of FHN, we're a proud Illinois
14 based not-for-profit hospital. I'm honored to
15 express our full support for the planned
16 NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital, as we embark on
17 this collaboration for NorthPointe Health, which
18 we officially unveiled last week.

19 Our new partnership between two
20 not-for-profit, mission-based health systems to
21 enhance healthcare access and services for all
22 communities our organization serves. Earlier this
23 month, our organizations jointly resubmitted a
24 proposal to this board to seek approval for a ten

1 bed inpatient facility in Roscoe. Our plans are
2 designed to improve healthcare access, keep
3 patients closer to home, especially for those who
4 might travel to Wisconsin for care, and to
5 strengthen regional health services.

6 The planned hospital will serve as a
7 community focused healthcare hub, helping to keep
8 patients in their local area, and providing
9 essential services closer to home. Due to the
10 recent elimination of inpatient beds and closures
11 in the Rockford Northwest Region, FHN and Beloit
12 Health System agreed that the reallocation of ten
13 of FHN's beds to the Roscoe region would better
14 serve the broader region's overall needs.

15 The planned ten bed facility will fill a
16 critical gap in care by bringing much needed
17 emergency department services to a region that
18 currently doesn't have any hospital beds or its
19 own emergency room. For too long, residents in
20 this area have faced unacceptable delays and risks
21 due to lack of timely access for emergency care.
22 NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital will not only
23 provide lifesaving services, but also strengthen
24 the overall health infrastructure of our

1 community, alleviating those high ED wait times
2 and delays in admissions.

3 This partnerships reflects a shared
4 commitment to the well being of Illinois
5 residents. The NorthPointe campus has already a
6 proven record throughout its outpatient presence,
7 and together, we are dedicated to meeting the
8 urgent needs of this underserved region. We urge
9 the agency to look beyond the jurisdictional
10 boundaries and consider the overwhelming public
11 benefit this hospital will bring.

12 Our collaboration will provide greater
13 resources to support patient centric strategies
14 and more efficient use of resources in the state
15 line community and surrounding areas. It will
16 allow our health systems to share data on patient
17 population, community health needs, and healthcare
18 services utilization to better identify gaps in
19 care, target interventions, and improve the
20 overall quality of care and population health
21 management.

22 On behalf of FHN and our community, I'm
23 honored to express our full support for the
24 establishment of NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital

1 to improve access to care to residents of the
2 state line community and surrounding areas. We
3 respectfully ask for your support in making this
4 vision a reality. Thank you so much.

5 MR. ROATE: Next, the board would like
6 to call Deputy Chief Kevin Briggs.

7 MR. BRIGGS: Good afternoon. All right,
8 current spelling is Kevin K-E-V-I-N, Briggs
9 B-R-I-G-G-S. All right. Good afternoon,
10 everybody. I'm Kevin Briggs, deputy chief of the
11 Harlem-Roscoe Fire Department, and here today to
12 support the plan to expand the NorthPointe campus
13 to include an emergency department and inpatient
14 beds. This is an initiative of two local,
15 non-for-profit, mission-based health systems,
16 which are committed to improve and provide
17 superior high quality care with respect, dignity,
18 and compassion to the patients and communities
19 they serve.

20 As a firefighter, I see first hand how
21 timely access to health care. Especially
22 emergency medical services, is vital to a
23 community and its quality of life. In my
24 position, I have seen NorthPointe's commitment to

1 providing high quality healthcare services to all
2 regions. Roscoe's explosive growth in the early
3 2000s transformed it from a small village into a
4 substantial community, bringing both opportunities
5 and challenges.

6 Relative to police and fire protection
7 interests, this growth has increased the demand
8 for emergency services with result -- with
9 resulting increased first responder times. Last
10 year, we -- we responded to 4,000 calls, 80
11 percent of those being EMS. At any given time,
12 one of our three ALS ambulances can be out of
13 service at a Rockford Hospital. And at any time,
14 all of our ambulances may be out of -- may be out
15 of service due to calls.

16 Local access will enhance access to
17 vital emergency services by reducing travel times
18 and keeping our ALS units in their district. The
19 shutdown of Mercy's Rockton Avenue campus has
20 dealt a serious blow to Rockford's healthcare
21 infrastructure, and the loss of its emergency
22 department has left a significant gap in the
23 region's ability to handle emergencies and
24 critical care cases. Especially during a peak

1 time or community wide incidents.

2 Having the emergency services at this
3 existing campus will make our area a safer place
4 to live in, as it will greatly reduce ambulance
5 transport times and support our department's
6 ability to deliver life saving care in critical
7 situations. I support the establishment of
8 NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital and ask that you
9 bring this message back to your commission. Thank
10 you. Have a great afternoon.

11 MR. ROATE: Next, the board would like
12 to call Ms. Kim Scace.

13 MS. SCACE: Kim Scace, K-I-M S-C-A-C-E.
14 I am Kim Scace, and I am here today on behalf of
15 State Senator Andrew Chesney. He could not be
16 here today, but he has asked me to provide the
17 following comments. As the state senator
18 representing this area, I want to make sure my
19 support of the NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital
20 is registered at today's public hearing and that
21 it becomes part of the official record. I
22 represent more than 200,000 Northern Illinoisans
23 in the 45th Senate District, including residents
24 of Rockton, Roscoe, South Beloit, Machesney Park,

1 and Loves Park.

2 I work hard to make sure their voices
3 are heard as they want a safe and comfortable
4 place to live, work, and raise a family. I know
5 how important economic development and opportunity
6 is for the many people who live in the small towns
7 in our area, and I support consumer choice and a
8 healthy competitive market. I am excited about
9 the partnership between Beloit Health System and
10 FHN on the planned NorthPointe Neighborhood
11 Hospital. The investment of millions of dollars
12 to expand the Roscoe campus in our district for
13 the betterment of the people who live here should
14 be applauded.

15 We have clearly seen that local
16 residents want access to doctors and to specialty
17 care of all types of the NorthPointe campus. The
18 collaboration between BHS and FHN will allow them
19 to leverage their strengths, leading to better
20 problem solving, peer learning, shared purpose,
21 and innovative ideas for the planned hospital.
22 Moreover, health outcomes will improve if we allow
23 the campus to accept ambulances at an emergency
24 room and provide comprehensive emergency care in

1 the same location.

2 The project plan is impressive, and it
3 is supported by extensive resources. I believe it
4 will attract more doctors, more investment, and
5 more opportunities for this area. Finally, it is
6 important to me that I represent the people in
7 this district who are here today asking for this
8 project to be approved. We should not let this
9 opportunity pass us by. Please allow the
10 NorthPointe NeighborhoodHospital to move forward.
11 Thank you.

12 MR. ROATE: Next, the board would like
13 to call Ms. Shelly Grigoroff.

14 MS. GRIGOROFF: Hi, I'm Shelly
15 Grigoroff, S-H-E-L-L-Y G-R-I-G-O-R-O-F-F. My name
16 is Shelly, and I am the chief of staff in the
17 Office of State Representative John Cabello. He
18 is in strong support of this project, and he.
19 Asked me to read this on his behalf. Dear
20 Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review
21 Board members and members of these great
22 communities. My name is John Cabello, and I
23 represent the 90th District in the Illinois House
24 of Representatives, which encompasses North

1 Central, Illinois, including the communities of
2 Rockton, Roscoe, South Beloit, and Freeport.

3 As a police officer of over 30 years, I
4 am proud to serve my community. I use my
5 knowledge and experience to be the ranking member
6 of my party on both the House Public Safety
7 Appropriations Committee and on the House Police
8 and Fire Committee. The safety and security of
9 our communities is of the utmost importance to me.
10 And that is why I am in strong support of Beloit
11 Health Systems and FHN Health Systems
12 collaboration on the NorthPointe Neighborhood
13 Hospital project. I truly believe that having
14 access to an emergency room directly in town will
15 save lives.

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

1 officer in South Beloit, and I know these
2 communities well.

3 We should not have to send individuals
4 in need up to Wisconsin or South by another 20 to
5 30 minutes if we have the resources to meet the
6 need here at home. When someone calls 911, I know
7 what it is to answer that call. Families should
8 not have to sit and wait for emergency care while
9 our ambulances are tied up making longer
10 round-trip drives out of the area. At the same
11 time, any individual in need preserves the right
12 to decide what hospital or hospital system they
13 choose to utilize. That's important.

14 The NorthPointe complex is already doing
15 a lot of good work here, and many people are
16 getting good care close to home. I want to see
17 more of that. This micro hospital concept is
18 appropriately sized for the region's needs, and
19 certainly small enough to unduly impact hospitals
20 from other regions. It is my opinion that we
21 should support this investment in our communities
22 and their health and safety.

23 I ask that you join me and the more than
24 1,000 people who have signed petitions and letters

1 in support and approved this proposal. Please
2 listen to the people who live here. It's their
3 lives and their health at stake. Thank you.

4 MR. ROATE: Next, the Board would like
5 to call Mr. Binn Jatta -- Dr. Binn Jatta. Sorry,
6 ma'am.

7 DR. JATTA: Good afternoon, everyone.
8 Like you said, I am actually a she. I am Dr. Binn
9 Jatta. B as in boy, I-N-N. Last name, J as in
10 John, A, T as in Tom, T Tom, A Apple. And I am an
11 OB-GYN with an active practice at the NorthPointe
12 Campus in Roscoe. I am also the medical director
13 of a birth center at NorthPointe, which offers a
14 family-centered approach with a home-like
15 environment.

16 Our birth center offers a safe,
17 supportive, and cost-effective environment for
18 low-risk pregnancies, empowering families with
19 personalized care and greater control over their
20 birth experience. We believe our birth center is
21 improving maternal satisfaction and outcomes while
22 reducing unnecessary medical interventions for
23 those who qualify. As an example of -- of the low
24 intervention model of a birth center, patients may

1 stay at the center for up to 12 hours after they
2 deliver their baby, but it is more likely that
3 they go home before that.

4 Birth centers emphasize natural
5 childbirth with minimal medical interventions.
6 They support unmedicated births and allow women to
7 labor and deliver in various positions, including
8 a tub. Birthing in water can provide significant
9 comfort by reducing pain and promoting relaxation
10 during labor. Not all mothers choose it, but the
11 buoyancy of the water supports freedom of movement
12 and can create a soothing, gentle environment for
13 both the birthing person and the baby.

14 We are proud of the service we provide
15 expecting mothers at the center, and with our new
16 collaboration with the hospital in Freeport, we
17 expect some of those committed members might
18 choose the center for their deliveries. We
19 carefully monitor -- at the center, we carefully
20 monitor and assess patients to generally ensure
21 that the births that will occur will not require
22 advanced intervention. The national experience is
23 that pre-birthing centers predict this very well.

24 As part of a health system, we know we

1 can transfer mothers to the hospital when
2 necessary and even divert them in advance if the
3 pregnancy has developed a complication. I'm
4 presenting information about this service in
5 context of the planned hospital at this campus to
6 emphasize our health system's focus on innovative
7 care and care at the right time and the right
8 place.

9 And notably, if the new NorthPointe
10 Neighborhood Hospital is approved, we will have
11 ready access to emergency services to stabilize a
12 patient and prepare them for transport. I will
13 typically be the physician to take the transfer,
14 and I will be able to meet the mother at the
15 NorthPointe Emergency to further assess the
16 situation and make a plan for a safe birth. For
17 this reason and others, I am excited for the
18 opening of the NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital
19 and urge this commission again to approve it,
20 please. Thank you.

21 MR. ROATE: Next, the Board would like
22 to call Ms. Sharon Cox.

23 MS. COX: Sharon, S-H-A-R-O-N, Cox,
24 C-O-X. I am Sharon Cox, the nursing -- chief

1 nursing officer at Beloit Health System. As a
2 nonprofit community health system, our
3 organization embodies a mission-driven approach to
4 healthcare, prioritizing the well-being of the
5 communities it serves over financial gains.

6 We operate with a steadfast commitment
7 to addressing healthcare needs where they are most
8 pressing, unburdened by constraints of profit
9 maximization. The organization's ethos is deeply
10 rooted in principles of charity care, public
11 trust, and community benefit, which guides its
12 operations and decision-making process.

13 Despite its smaller size, our
14 organization reported nearly 3.5 times the
15 financial assistance on its publicly available
16 filings than Javon Bea Hospital, \$6,000,000 versus
17 less than \$2 million. Additionally, the cost of
18 Medicaid care provided at BHS as a percentage of
19 total expenses was two to six times higher than
20 Javon Bea Hospital and OSF Healthcare.

21 Many of you know how busy our hospital
22 just across the border has been in recent years.
23 We have continuously adapted to meeting evolving
24 patient needs. Our emergency department has been

1 one of the busiest in the area. We have expanded
2 that service over time relative to inpatient care
3 while we work to achieve all private rooms for our
4 patients.

5 We routinely find ourselves requiring
6 double occupancy on some floors. Having these
7 additional beds in Roscoe would help us achieve
8 our private room goals. Industry guidelines for
9 hospital design call for newly built hospitals to
10 provide only private rooms, reflecting a shift in
11 best practices for patient safety, infection
12 control, and privacy.

13 This summer, we have developed a
14 collaboration with FHN Health System in Freeport,
15 Illinois, to operate the planned NorthPointe
16 Neighborhood Hospital and improve healthcare for
17 the Stateline community. We are really excited to
18 move forward with this new partnership. The
19 planned Neighborhood Hospital at NorthPointe is a
20 natural evolution of our original vision to serve
21 local and Northern Illinois patients closer to
22 home. Adding inpatient care to our campus here
23 will improve crucial family support for Illinois
24 residents who are hospitalized and will enhance

1 communication and patient decision-making during
2 those stays.

3 Finally, Roscoe is in a health
4 professional shortage area, and these plans will
5 enhance our ongoing physician recruiting
6 initiatives. We believe these plans are a
7 testament to our commitment to the Illinois
8 residents of the Stateline community and ask the
9 Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review
10 Board to approve our plans. Thank you for your
11 time today.

12 MR. ROATE: Next, the Board would like
13 to call Roscoe Village President Carol Gustafson.

14 MS. GUSTAFSON: Good try. Carol
15 Gustafson, G-U-S-T-A-F-S-O-N. My name is Carol
16 Gustafson. I have proudly served in local
17 government here in my community for over a decade,
18 first as village trustee and now as president of
19 the Village of Roscoe. For those of you who are
20 unaware, Roscoe is a growing community in
21 Winnebago County along the Rock River.

22 Among Roscoe's many attributes are an
23 excellent educational system, attracting many,
24 many new residents; a pro-business climate,

1 providing opportunity for economic development and
2 employment; and fine recreational facilities,
3 drawing people from throughout the region.

4 Healthcare facilities are vital to all
5 communities, Roscoe included. Allowing our local
6 residents to stay close to home for their
7 healthcare needs is good for families. As you've
8 heard, in some instances, those shorter drives,
9 the timely access to required services can be
10 critical to the outcome.

11 In addition, I would be remiss if I
12 didn't point out that expanded healthcare services
13 also provide a community such as ours with
14 economic benefits, ranging from construction jobs
15 to ancillary services and sustained employment.
16 And we really want more rooftops. So all of that
17 would be a plus to the village of Roscoe, but most
18 important is the safety and access of quality
19 healthcare in timely fashion.

20 The planned NorthPointe Neighborhood
21 Hospital is a response to a 2023 community health
22 needs assessment. This plan addresses critical
23 gaps in emergency care access, alleviates bed
24 utilization issues, and expands primary care

1 access. In addition, the proposed plan was
2 revised to address issues raised in the state
3 review. NorthPointe will be an Illinois
4 not-for-profit corporation.

5 I fully support the NorthPointe
6 Neighborhood Hospital. I urge the Illinois
7 Facilities and Service Review Board to approve
8 this neighborhood hospital. This board has
9 approved other hospital projects to stem the
10 out-migration. I ask that NorthPointe's proposal
11 be given similar, favorable consideration. Thank
12 you for the opportunity to address this very, very
13 important issue to me and our residents.

14 MR. ROATE: Thank you. Next, the Board
15 would like to call Dr. Kenneth Klein.

16 DR. KLEIN: Ken Klein, K-L-E-I-N. Good
17 afternoon, everyone. I am Dr. Kenneth Klein, a
18 resident of Roscoe, a board member for the new
19 planned hospital, and a practicing physician with
20 an over-30-year history at this health system. I
21 am here to reiterate my support for the
22 establishment of the NorthPointe Neighborhood
23 Hospital for the benefits it will bring the
24 Stateline community and urge the HFSRB to support

1 it with approval of our pending certificate of
2 need permit application.

3 We are presenting at the hearing today
4 with our new partner in this endeavor, FHN, which
5 operates an outstanding hospital program in
6 Freeport, Illinois. At both health systems, we
7 prioritize treating each patient like family,
8 delivering exceptional care for all our patients,
9 regardless of their ability to pay. This proposal
10 represents a significant investment in our
11 community, enabling low-acuity inpatient services
12 closer to home. This will reduce travel times for
13 families, facilitating their involvement in
14 patient care, which is vital for recovery.

15 We are confident in our ability to
16 provide high-quality nursing care in this setting,
17 leveraging off our existing nursing leadership and
18 resources and modeling nursing care,
19 stabilization, and transfer for patients needing a
20 higher level of care based on established
21 guidelines for small-format hospitals that are
22 already very prevalent in Illinois.

23 Additionally, the hospital will enhance
24 physician access in the Stateline area and address

1 challenges related to timely care. Beyond the key
2 fact that our organization, as a nonprofit,
3 tax-exempt organization, is an integral part of
4 the regional health care safety net, we have a
5 clear focus on quality, as recognized not only by
6 our high Medicare star rating, but also several
7 advanced certifications relative to stroke,
8 general cardiovascular care, perinatal care, and
9 orthopedic services.

10 Finally, a full-service emergency
11 department will ease the strain on our current
12 emergency services in Beloit, offering local
13 options for Illinois patients, eliminating the
14 need to travel to Wisconsin or elsewhere for
15 emergency care. We appreciate the outpouring of
16 community support for this proposal, and we ask
17 that you approve it. Thank you very much.

18 MR. ROATE: Next, the Board would like
19 to call Nommo Donald.

20 MS. DONALD: Good afternoon. My name is
21 Nommo Donald. N as in Nancy, O, M as in Mary, M
22 as in Mary, O. Last name Donald, D-O-N-A-L-D. I
23 am Nommo Donald, a vice president at the Beloit
24 Health System in support of this proposal. In my

1 current role, I am one of the stewards of our
2 mission-based not-for-profit healthcare
3 organization, and I have the privilege to oversee
4 critical service areas for the communities we
5 serve.

6 Our proposed has broad community support
7 in the Stateline community and aligns with this
8 board's objectives. We are so pleased to join
9 forces with FHN Health System in Freeport, which
10 is another not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization
11 and part of the healthcare safety net, like we
12 are. Together, we are uniquely qualified to
13 advance these plans.

14 The community benefits from our
15 services, as reflected by the fact that patients
16 cross the Wisconsin border to receive care at our
17 existing hospital. The flat utilization of
18 Rockford Hospitals, coupled with tracked
19 out-migration data, clearly shows that Rockford
20 providers do not have capacity to accommodate all
21 of the region's patients' needs, resulting in the
22 shift of care out of state. Not to mention
23 Mercy's closure of inpatient care at the flagship
24 Rockford hospital only heightens our awareness

1 that the resources in Illinois are not adequate to
2 address the needs of the patients in this area.

3 To emphasize our nonprofit mission, I
4 will touch on a few of our programs, which go
5 beyond traditional healthcare. Our system has
6 implemented a comprehensive approach to address
7 the social determinants of health. We conduct
8 screenings with each patient to identify their
9 family's health-related social needs, including
10 housing, food deserts, and transportation needs.

11 We then connect these patients with the
12 appropriate community resources needed -- the
13 needs that were identified. We provide staff
14 training on culturally competence and explicit
15 bias to ensure that the services that we provide
16 are, in fact, culturally appropriate.

17 Among other community support and
18 outreach, we serve as a last resort warming
19 shelter for unhomed individuals during extreme
20 weather conditions. This includes shelter and
21 food when we can. Because our community knows
22 that they can come to our facility for shelter, we
23 no longer have patients feigning illnesses to get
24 indoors to get away from the inclement weather.

1 And to address some of the quality
2 concerns raised, we are proud to hold a four-star
3 rating under Medicare Compare Quality System.
4 This rating surpasses all three operating
5 Winnebago County Hospitals and also exceeds the
6 rating of our Mercy Janesville Hospital.
7 Collaborating with FHN, the planned NorthPointe
8 Neighborhood Hospital will be essential to stem
9 Wisconsin out-migration, keeping our care local
10 for our Illinois Stateline communities and
11 reducing some of the census strains we sometimes
12 experience at our Beloit Hospital because of this
13 very need. We simply wish to take care of our
14 patients in the state where they live. Thank you.

15 MR. ROATE: Next, the Board would like
16 to call Nicole Kovarik.

17 MS. KOVARIK: Nicole Kovarik,
18 N-I-C-O-L-E K-O-V-A-R-I-K. Good afternoon. I'm
19 the director of the emergency department at Beloit
20 Health System. I'm the nursing director. After
21 years of hard work to establish our emergency
22 services at NorthPointe Location, I'm here to
23 express my support for the NorthPointe
24 Neighborhood Hospital.

1 Beloit Memorial Hospital operates one of
2 the busiest emergency departments in the area, and
3 many of our patients who seek care in the
4 emergency department live in Illinois.

5 Establishing inpatient hospital services in
6 Roscoe, along with a full-service emergency
7 department, would complement the services that we
8 already provide and reduce out-migration of
9 patients, keeping healthcare closer to home.

10 For some individuals, this may make the
11 difference between life and death. The planned
12 project will upgrade the current NorthPointe
13 Immediate Care facility to a full-service
14 emergency department. This would include 13 bays.
15 Eight bays would be designed for emergency
16 patients, while five bays will be assigned to
17 immediate care patients.

18 Patients arriving at NorthPointe
19 emergency department will be triaged, and based on
20 their medical conditions, those with urgent
21 conditions such as uncontrolled hypertension,
22 pneumonia, respiratory distress, dehydration would
23 be directed to the emergency base.

24 While patients who have previously used

1 NorthPointe and are familiar with our less urgent
2 rooms, such as respiratory infections, sprains,
3 lacerations, those patients would be sent to our
4 immediate care area. Importantly, the design of
5 the emergency department allows for flexibility.

6 If additional emergency bays are needed,
7 we can convert those immediate care bays into
8 emergency bays, enabling us to quickly address
9 patients with urgent medical conditions. The
10 speed and expertise provided to accessible
11 emergency care are critical for saving lives and
12 minimizing long-term complications across a wide
13 range of acute medical conditions.

14 The planned hospital will help alleviate
15 over-utilization of services at Beloit Memorial
16 Hospital, allowing patients to receive treatment
17 closer to home, where they can have the support of
18 their family. I strongly encourage the commission
19 to approve our plans.

20 Since our last presentation to the
21 Board, we provided supplemental information,
22 addressing concerns regarding our proposal, and we
23 look forward to the project's reconsideration.
24 Thank you for your attention.

1 MR. ROATE: Thank you. Next, the board
2 would like to call Mayor John Peterson.

3 MR. PETERSON: I'm John Peterson,
4 J-O-H-N -- jeez, the mic. J-O-H-N
5 P-E-T-E-R-S-O-N, and I'm going to be brief.
6 You're welcome. I'm John Peterson, mayor of
7 Rockton, Illinois, which has served in NorthPointe
8 Health Wellness Campus. I'm speaking in support
9 of the NorthPointe neighborhood hospital proposal
10 pending before this commission, and strongly urge
11 each board member to vote yes.

12 The plan includes adding a local
13 emergency room, and is in the best interest of the
14 residents of Rockton, I represent in my opinion.
15 Thank you for taking your time, and we appreciate
16 your attention and for a good vote, hopefully.
17 Thank you.

18 MR. ROATE: Sorry, sir. Thank you.
19 Next, the board would like to call Dr. Edward
20 Nabrinsky. Oh, sorry.

21 DR. NABRINSKY: Got it. That's what
22 happens when you run over from the clinics.
23 Hello. Edward, E-D-W-A-R-D, Nabrinsky, N-A-B,
24 like boy, R-I-N-S-K-Y. Hi, everyone. My name is

1 Edward Nabrinsky, and I would like to speak in
2 favor of the NorthPointe Community Hospital. I'm
3 a board-certified hematologist and oncologist,
4 specializing in treating both blood and
5 organ-related cancers, as well as different kinds
6 of blood disorders.

7 As we think about how we can improve
8 community health, I often look to the evolution of
9 cancer care since I began my oncologic training a
10 very long time ago, a few years. But overall, the
11 progress has been remarkable and is highlighted by
12 declining cancer-related morbidity and mortality.

13 In just the last year, we've seen more
14 advances in cancer care, including improvements in
15 blood-based testing assays, which have
16 dramatically improved our detection of circulating
17 DNA of different kinds of tumors and to help find
18 cancer at an earlier time.

19 Well, as AI and machine learning being
20 increasingly integrated into early detection and
21 diagnosis tools, such as mammography and imaging,
22 which really enhances our accuracy and aids in our
23 precision to help match to the best treatments for
24 patients, as well as increasing number of

1 minimally invasive tests for inherited cancer
2 risks and early detection.

3 And I'm really pleased to have these
4 tools available to improve the quality of cancer
5 care for my patients, but we still have a long way
6 to go in terms of meeting the needs of our
7 community with all of the testing and monitoring
8 that needs to be done.

9 Despite all these advances, cancer
10 patients often find themselves in need of
11 emergency treatment that necessitates access to
12 hospital and emergency services, especially after
13 hours. Hospital and emergency services in Roscoe
14 will allow cancer patients to receive care closer
15 to home for acute complications, like severe pain,
16 electrolyte abnormalities, fluid accumulation,
17 infections, breathing difficulties, and also
18 treatment-related side effects.

19 As you might expect, these patients are
20 often hospitalized more frequently than
21 non-oncology-related patients and require
22 additional support. The NorthPointe Neighborhood
23 Hospital will provide essential support for our
24 oncology and hematology patients, and I urge the

1 Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review
2 Board to please approve it for our community.
3 Thank you so much for your time and for your
4 consideration.

5 MR. ROATE: Thank you. Next, the board
6 would like to call Mark Gliebe.

7 MR. GLIEBE: Mark Gliebe, M-A-R-K
8 G-L-I-E-B-E. You know, we had an earlier speaker
9 that came up here and stated that Roscoe residents
10 currently enjoy timely access to emergency
11 healthcare. Well, I got to tell you, I've been a
12 resident here for 20 years, and I raised my family
13 here. I don't believe there's timely access.

14 And when you have an injured child in
15 your car driving to the hospital, that drive takes
16 forever. Good afternoon, everyone. I am Mark
17 Gliebe, and I have proudly served as a board
18 member of Beloit Health System for over ten years.
19 In my professional career, I was the chairman and
20 CEO of Regal Beloit Corporation.

21 Through that experience, I have come to
22 deeply appreciate the vital role -- role of a
23 robust health system and -- and the role that it
24 plays in your community. Today, I stand before

1 you to express my strong support for the
2 NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital.

3 We ask for your approval to move forward
4 with these plans with a new format that we have
5 just announced that brings two like-minded
6 non-profit mission-based systems together, to
7 enhance care for Illinois residents and to provide
8 that care in Illinois through a new -- new
9 Illinois non-for-profit corporation.

10 A membership -- as a member of the
11 leadership team of our non-profit health system, I
12 can attest to our commitment to the communities we
13 serve in both Illinois and Wisconsin. Our mission
14 is clear and resolute to provide exceptional
15 health and wellness services that deliver the
16 highest quality, value, and satisfaction to our
17 patients.

18 As a non-profit organization, we serve
19 all patients, regardless of insurance status. We
20 partner with all health plans, and we are willing
21 -- that are willing to collaborate with us,
22 ensuring our services are accessible to as many
23 people as possible. Our organization is more than
24 a medical facility.

1 It is a cornerstone of this community.
2 We are deeply invested in the health and wellness
3 of every resident. Many of you are familiar with
4 our NorthPointe campus here in Roscoe. And I have
5 seen the significant investments that we've made
6 in this community, from wellness programs
7 featuring state-of-the-art workout facilities and
8 an indoor pool to our urgent care center, and our
9 newest addition, a birth center for mothers
10 choosing to give birth outside of traditional
11 hospital setting.

12 Our birth center, we -- we strive to
13 meet the diverse needs of the communities we
14 serve. Our dedicated staff works tirelessly to
15 provide care that is not only of the highest
16 quality but also delivered with empathy and
17 respect. Relative to quality, you may have
18 noticed in local Beloit Health System
19 advertisements the two-letter A. Look for those.

20 The two letter A grades displayed side
21 by side. These represent the letter grades
22 awarded to us by LeapFrog, an independent watchdog
23 organization. Our hospital is currently the only
24 healthcare organization in the region to hold this

1 distinction. Thank you for your trust and support
2 of our NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital proposal.
3 Together, we will build a healthier and stronger
4 community.

5 MR. ROATE: Next, the board would like
6 to call Ms. Sharon Hecox.

7 MS. HECOX: Sharon Hecox, S-H-A-R-O-N
8 H-E-C-O-X. I am Sharon Hecox, and I serve as the
9 executive director of the Stateline Mass Transit
10 District. I am here again today, supporting the
11 plan to develop an emergency department and
12 inpatient beds at the NorthPointe Health and
13 Wellness Campus in Roscoe.

14 Our organization is a local
15 government-owned public transportation provider
16 serving the Stateline area in Northern Illinois.
17 We cover South Beloit, Rockton, Roscoe, and the
18 Area Townships. SMTD offers affordable
19 transportation services, especially for residents
20 who have mobility issues or lack of other
21 transportation options.

22 Our services are crucial in ensuring
23 that local low-income and elderly residents have
24 access to essential medical care at the

1 NorthPointe campus. These services bridge the gap
2 for individuals without reliable transportation,
3 reducing missed appointments and improving overall
4 health outcomes.

5 By -- by providing these rides, we help
6 mitigate the financial and logistical barriers
7 that often prevent vulnerable populations from
8 receiving timely medical attention. Additionally,
9 our transportation services enhance the quality of
10 life for elderly residents by promoting
11 independence and reducing social isolation.

12 We truly value our partnership with
13 NorthPointe and have a shared dedication to
14 ensuring that vulnerable populations are cared
15 for. These plans are now a collaboration between
16 two mission-driven non-profit tax-exempt providers
17 with deep foundations in Illinois. This joint
18 sponsorship just adds to our enthusiasm and
19 support for the plans.

20 There are many transit-dependent
21 individuals who are NorthPointe patients who do
22 not have access to alternate transportation. When
23 people need care that is not available locally, it
24 is very taxing for the patients and their

1 families, especially when a hospital stay is
2 required.

3 Whereas SMTD can transport riders or
4 patients from our service area directly to medical
5 appointments in Beloit or Rockford, yet we are
6 unable to transport riders or family to directly
7 to the hospitals for visits. That type of trip
8 would require the rider or family member to
9 transfer from SMTD to BTS, Beloit Transit System,
10 or RMTD, Rockford Mass Transit District, to
11 continue their trip, arriving at the hospital.

12 Keeping area residents close to home for
13 healthcare will enable patients to remain near
14 their loved ones, making it easier for family
15 members to visit them while in the hospital. SMTD
16 strongly supports the transition of NorthPointe to
17 a hospital to meet the needs of the local
18 community.

19 NorthPointe is a strong community
20 supporter. Its presence continues to benefit both
21 local businesses and our riders. Thank you for
22 your time, and bravo to Northpointe for advancing
23 this initiative and seeking meaningful solutions
24 to real-world problems.

1 MR. ROATE: Thank you. Next, the board
2 would like to call Mr. Tom McCawley.

3 MR. MCCAWLEY: Tom McCawley, T-O-M
4 M-C-C-A-W-L-E-Y. Good afternoon. As I said, my
5 name is Tom McCawley. I'm vice president of human
6 resources with Beloit Health System. I'm very
7 happy to be here today with the people supporting
8 this initiative. The Roscoe community is a
9 federally designated health professional shortage
10 area because too few physicians practice in the
11 area. We are dedicated to addressing these access
12 challenges.

13 And while we've had some success, our
14 collaboration with FHN Health System will assist
15 our efforts to attract more specialists to the
16 region. We work with national organizations to
17 benchmark our efforts, ensuring that we employ a
18 data-driven and candidate-centric strategy
19 tailored to the specific needs of the communities
20 we serve.

21 As it stands, the physician's office
22 hours offered at NorthPointe Campus have vastly
23 improved and allowed patients to have appointments
24 without having to travel to Wisconsin. The

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

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

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

23 The NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital is
24 a critical component in expanding primary care

1 access, supporting our recruitment and retention
2 efforts, and ultimately addressing local
3 healthcare needs. It represents a significant
4 step towards ensuring that the Stateline community
5 has appropriate access to the healthcare services
6 that promote health and wellness.

7 Thank you for your consideration, and I
8 look forward to having our plans approved at the
9 upcoming HF SRB meeting.

10 MR. ROATE: Next, the board would like
11 to call Dr. Andrew Dean.

12 DR. DEAN: Hello. Andrew Dean,
13 A-N-D-R-E-W D-E-A-N. Good afternoon. I'm Dr.
14 Andrew Dean. I'm a board-certified emergency room
15 physician. I'm the medical director for the
16 Beloit Memorial Hospital emergency department,
17 which serves as the community emergency department
18 rotation site for the emergency medicine residency
19 at the University of Wisconsin Hospitals.

20 I'm also the state regional medical
21 director and vice president of clinical operations
22 for Southern Wisconsin Emergency Associates. I'm
23 also the medical director for Stateline Regional
24 EMS, who provides medical direction for our EMS

1 services in Southern (Inaudible) County. I
2 applaud our leadership for developing a joint
3 sponsorship with the new Illinois non-profit with
4 our like-minded colleagues in the region,
5 operating at Freeport Hospital.

6 Access to emergency care is a
7 fundamental right and a clinical service --
8 critical service for any community. While
9 NorthPointe Immediate Care excels in providing an
10 urgent care scope of services, it is limited by
11 its inability to accept ambulance transports and
12 accept higher-acuity cases. Namely, as an
13 immediate care center, it cannot offer the full
14 spectrum of services available in a hospital
15 emergency department, such as 24-hour care for
16 acutely ill or injured patients.

17 It also lacks the capability to admit
18 these patients for overnight monitoring and
19 additional testing. The proposed NorthPointe
20 Neighborhood Hospital will address these
21 limitations. By incorporating a full-service
22 emergency department, it will be able to accept
23 ambulances, which will significantly reduce
24 transport times and potentially save lives.

1 Its location will have the transport
2 times for emergency medical services, which can be
3 crucial in life-threatening situations. Also,
4 having an emergency department on the NorthPointe
5 Campus will allow EMS personnel to more quickly
6 return to service, enhancing overall emergency
7 response efficiency in the region.

8 The approval of the NorthPointe
9 Neighborhood Hospital will significantly improve
10 access to emergency services for the residents of
11 the Stateline community, which is my focus. I
12 urge the Illinois Health Facilities and Services
13 Review Board to approve this vital project. Thank
14 you for your time and -- and consideration.

15 MR. ROATE: Next, the board would like
16 to call Chief Sam Hawley.

17 MR. HAWLEY: It's Sam, S-A-M, Hawley,
18 H-A-W-L-E-Y. Good afternoon. My name is Sam
19 Hawley, and I'm the chief of police for the Roscoe
20 Police Department. I'm here this afternoon to
21 reiterate our full support for the NorthPointe
22 Neighborhood Hospital project. It will greatly
23 benefit our community by enhancing access to
24 healthcare, and supporting economic growth.

1 Most importantly, establishing an
2 emergency room in Roscoe would address a gap in
3 healthcare services for the area. As a police
4 officer, I'm all too aware that minutes make all
5 the difference during an emergency. Today, area
6 residents must travel to Rockford to receive
7 lifesaving interventions, even during those
8 time-sensitive situations, and often those
9 emergency rooms are overcrowded.

10 With this in mind, I have no doubt that
11 the addition of emergency and inpatient services
12 on NorthPointe Health and Wellness Campus will
13 save lives and have a positive impact on the
14 overall well-being of our citizens. I'm also
15 confident that the hospital will contribute
16 positively to our local economy, creating job
17 opportunities, and stimulating economic growth.

18 The Stateline community shows signs of
19 resilience and local vitality by -- but without
20 adequate healthcare resources, I feel we'll lose
21 an opportunity. Having a local hospital will
22 serve as an immensely valuable resource for
23 police, fire department personnel, and the
24 community as a whole, and will help fortify

1 critical infrastructure.

2 We're excited to see the positive
3 changes that the hospital will bring to our
4 community, and we fully endorse this initiative.
5 The Roscoe Police Department stands behind
6 NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital, which we
7 operate as an Illinois not-for-profit corporation,
8 and applauds the system's efforts to provide
9 quality healthcare services to our residents.

10 We look forward to our continued
11 partnership with NorthPointe Health in serving our
12 community. Thank you.

13 MR. ROATE: Next, the board would like
14 to call Melissa Salaam.

15 MS. SALAAM: Hello. Melissa Salaam,
16 M-E-L-I-S-S-A S-A-L-A-A-M. Good afternoon. My
17 name is Melissa Salaam. I'm supporting the
18 proposal today as our director of transitional
19 care. My role involves coordinating healthcare
20 services between various levels of care, including
21 nursing homes, assisted-living facilities, and
22 patient homes, to ensure seamless continuity of
23 care following an acute-care admission.

24 We really believe in this project, and

1 I'm here to reiterate my strong support for the
2 expansion of NorthPointe Campus in Roscoe, to
3 include emergency services and inpatient care. As
4 Dr. Kapoor has mentioned in the past, the
5 NorthPointe Campus, which opened in 2007, offers a
6 wide range of services, including NorthPointe
7 Terrace, our assisted-living residential facility.

8 Assisted-living residents are typically
9 frail and often have multiple comorbidities,
10 making them more susceptible to hospitalization,
11 compared to younger patients for similar
12 illnesses. For instance, an elderly patient with
13 a urinary tract infection might require
14 hospitalization and receive IV antibiotics to
15 monitor for complications such as cellulitis.

16 Sudden onset of confusion, a common
17 complication, often necessitates hospital
18 monitoring. The proposed NorthPointe Neighborhood
19 Hospital will just be steps away from NorthPointe
20 Terrace. This proximity will facilitate the quick
21 transport of our residents who require emergency
22 care or hospitalization.

23 Additionally, it will alleviate the
24 burden on families who play a crucial role in

1 patient care, as they are already familiar with
2 the campus, and will find it easier to navigate a
3 smaller hospice or hospital, compared to a large
4 acute-care facility. The establishment of the
5 NorthPointe Neighborhood Hospital will
6 significantly improve access to healthcare for
7 residents at NorthPointe Terrace and broader
8 Stateline community.

9 By providing local access to vital
10 medical care, including emergency services and
11 low-acuity medical care, the hospital will enhance
12 healthcare outcomes and reduce transit times in
13 emergencies. Our organization is four-star rated
14 by Medicare, demonstrating strong performance for
15 clinical outcomes, patient experience, efficiency,
16 safety of care, and timely effective care. This
17 rating is higher than the Illinois -- other
18 Illinois hospitals in our area.

19 I urge the State Board to approve this
20 -- this essential project. Thank you.

21 MR. ROATE: The board would like to call
22 Michael Wright.

23 MR. WRIGHT: My name is Mike Wright,
24 W-R-I-G-H-T. It's great to see a lot of people

1 here in support of this. It's a super turnout.
2 Thanks everyone for coming. Again, good
3 afternoon. I'm Mike Wright. I'm a member of the
4 Village Board of Roscoe. I've been a trustee
5 there now for a little over two years. I'm a
6 proud resident of Roscoe.

7 My family and I moved to the Roscoe area
8 about 27 years ago. I love Roscoe and want to
9 make it a better community. I've also had the
10 privilege -- a little bit of background. I've
11 also had the privilege of working for the Beloit
12 Health System and NorthPointe. Mr. McKeveatt and
13 Gus, you guys run a top-notch shop. No question.
14 Thank you.

15 One of my jobs as a village trustee is
16 to find out what residents want for the village.
17 Over 1,400 friends and neighbors have spoken, and
18 they want a neighborhood hospital. A neighborhood
19 hospital would bring much needed health care
20 resources to our community, particularly primary
21 care physicians.

22 As noted in the most recent community
23 health needs assessment, it can take up to six
24 months to schedule a medical appointment. Some of

1 the comments in that assessment included the
2 following -- and I quote these. I routinely --
3 routinely cannot get in to see physicians in six
4 months or more. In terms of healthcare, it would
5 be nicer if they had more clinics and access to
6 doctors.

7 It's quite lengthy to get in to see a
8 general practitioner. Third one, One of the
9 biggest struggles is the wait time to get in,
10 because nobody is accepting new patients, so
11 patients end up using their local ER. A
12 neighborhood hospital in Roscoe will be integral
13 to recruiting primary care physicians and
14 specialists as well, to the Stateline community,
15 which will improve wait times to see a primary
16 care physician or a specialist.

17 This, in turn, will alleviate
18 overcrowding of the local emergency departments,
19 and significantly improve patient outcomes, and
20 lower healthcare costs. Beyond improved access to
21 healthcare services, the planned NorthPointe
22 Neighborhood Hospital is poised to create some
23 significant, and I mean significant, economic
24 benefits to this area. Not only Roscoe. Rockton

1 and South Beloit as well. I play for all teams.
2 For the health of the Stateline
3 community, I support the planned neighborhood
4 hospital. And bottom line, folks -- and I'll
5 speak again for all three communities -- a lot of
6 us come here for schools. We always label
7 schools. Oh, our schools are great. We always
8 label health -- public safety, fire safety is our
9 second.

10 It's a great thing. I see absolutely no
11 reason why we can't add a third one, and that's
12 healthcare. Thank you.

13 MR. ROATE: Thank you. Thank you.
14 Next, the board would like to call Laura Neece.

15 MS. NEECE: Laura Neece, L-A-U-R-A
16 N-E-E-C-E. Good afternoon. My name is Laura
17 Neece, and I'm presenting the testimony from the
18 Beloit Sky Carp, a Minor League Baseball affiliate
19 of the Miami Marlins. Beloit Sky -- Sky Carp is
20 proud to contribute to community development by
21 creating jobs -- oh, closer? Sorry.

22 Development by creating jobs and
23 attracting tourism, and is strongly supporting the
24 development of the NorthPointe Neighborhood

1 Hospital. The benefactors of Beloit Sky Carp,
2 Quint and Rishy Studer, are deeply committed to
3 the community-based development and education.

4 They have made significant contributions
5 to enhancing healthcare outcomes, supporting small
6 businesses, improving urban environments, and
7 advancing early childhood education. Their
8 dedication to reinvesting profits into community
9 initiatives through both investment and
10 philanthropy is commendable.

11 Beloit Health System has been an
12 outstanding partner to the Sky Carp, embodying a
13 strong commitment to providing excellent
14 healthcare. Their dedication to maintaining a
15 robust, independent health system is evident
16 through their numerous community initiatives. The
17 health system hosts events throughout the year to
18 benefit the Stateline community, such as the
19 Community Safety Day, which educates children,
20 families, on safety practices, and the Pulling For
21 Hospice event, which is -- which supports the
22 Beloit Regional Hospice.

23 Additionally, their annual Pro-Am golf
24 event and the Doves & Diamonds Gala raise funds

1 for healthcare services and celebrate the
2 impactful work of the providers hospice team. The
3 proposed expansion of services at NorthPointe
4 Campus, and now in collaboration with another
5 safety net organization, FHN Memorial Hospital in
6 Freeport, Illinois, aligns perfectly with the
7 health system's mission to deliver comprehensive
8 care to all patients, regardless of their
9 financial situation.

10 This initiative is a testament to their
11 unwavering commitment to the community. Thank you
12 for allowing the Beloit Sky Carp the opportunity
13 to support this important plan.

14 MR. ROATE: Next, the board would like
15 to call Chris Shepard.

16 MR. SHEPARD: Yeah, good afternoon.
17 It's C-H-R-I-S. Last name is S-H-E-P-A-R-D. So
18 thanks. Good -- good afternoon, everybody. I'm
19 Chris Shepard. I'm here to support the expanded
20 hospital and emergency services at the Northbrook
21 [sic] Neighborhood Hospital. My wife, Michelle,
22 and I, have proudly called Roscoe our home for 22
23 years.

24 This isn't just where we live. It's

1 where our family has grown. My brother-in-law's
2 family also lives locally, and my mother resides
3 at NorthPointe Terrace, an assisted-living
4 facility here in Roscoe, that's part of the larger
5 NorthPointe Campus. Roscoe is a growing and
6 vibrant community. We're home to families,
7 schools, and small businesses. Yet right now, the
8 nearest full-service emergency rooms are about ten
9 miles away.

10 That may not sound far, but in a real
11 emergency, whether it's a heart attack, stroke, or
12 serious accident, every minute counts. Those
13 extra miles can mean the difference between life
14 and death. Our police, fire, and EMS teams do an
15 exceptional job, but too often, they're required
16 to transport patients 20 minutes or more to the
17 nearest ER, often during the most critical
18 moments.

19 A local emergency room would save time
20 and save lives. Our schools would benefit.
21 Willowbrook and Prairie Hill Schools are both less
22 than two miles from NorthPointe. From playground
23 injuries to allergic reactions, having emergency
24 care just minutes away, offers peace of mind to

1 parents, teachers, and school staff.

2 There are also real concerns about road
3 safety. Intersections like Love and McCurry Road,
4 just a mile-and-a-half from NorthPointe, have seen
5 repeated accidents and emergency responses, and
6 major highways like Interstate 90 add even more
7 risk. In these situations, having an emergency
8 care nearby isn't just helpful, it's essential.

9 Beyond emergency response, expanding the
10 NorthPointe Campus would bring jobs, economic
11 opportunity, and improved access to high-quality
12 healthcare, especially for our aging population.
13 My mother, who is 86, has recently been
14 transported to the ER in Beloit three times.
15 Imagine if that care had been available just
16 minutes away right here in Roscoe.

17 Please support our future of our
18 community, and bring emergency care closer to
19 home. Thank you.

20 MR. ROATE: Thank you, sir. Next, the
21 board would like to call Dr. Marek Lisek -- Lisek
22 -- Lisek.

23 DR. LISEK: Marek Lisek, M-A-R-E-K
24 L-I-S-E-K. Good afternoon. I am Dr. Marek Lisek,

1 and I am an internal medicine physician with
2 Beloit Health System. I'm not just a physician,
3 but I'm a proud resident of Roscoe and the
4 Stateline community. I grew up here. So when I
5 speak to you today, it is not as a hospital
6 spokesperson, administrator, lawyer, or
7 salesperson for some big healthcare system.

8 I'm speaking as a physician who lives
9 and breathes this community. Roscoe and the
10 Stateline community are federally designated
11 Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas,
12 or HPSAs, or -- sorry. HPSAs have reduced access
13 to care, which can impact health outcomes and
14 increase health disparities, which is why I
15 returned home after completing my residency to
16 serve the friends and neighbors I grew up with.

17 I chose internal medicine because I love
18 solving patient problems as they present, from
19 admission, and work with them long-term, either as
20 an inpatient in the hospital or as an outpatient
21 in the clinic. The planned NorthPointe
22 Neighborhood Hospital will address the widely
23 reported challenges associated with access to
24 timely care through the Stateline community,

1 through recruitment of additional primary care
2 physicians like me.

3 It will also alleviate the burden on
4 emergency response personnel and services through
5 the expanded network of sources of care that are
6 responsible to the community needs. Moreover, the
7 collaboration between Beloit Health System and FHN
8 will identify and address service gaps, develop
9 innovative solutions, apply best practice from
10 both organizations, and learn from each other on
11 how to improve healthcare to the community.

12 This is not a complicated decision. The
13 infrastructure is already in place. Our community
14 needs this level of care, and Beloit Health System
15 and FHN Health System are ready and willing to
16 provide it. We've got the expertise, we've got
17 the facilities, and most importantly, we've got
18 the commitment to our community.

19 Let's make the NorthPointe Neighborhood
20 Hospital a reality, and provide the care that our
21 community so desperately needs. Thank you for
22 your time.

23 MR. ROATE: Next, the board would like
24 to call Josh Perez.

1 MR. PEREZ: Josh Perez, J-O-S-H
2 P-E-R-E-Z. Good afternoon. I'm Josh Perez, the
3 director of NorthPointe Wellness and I am pleased
4 to be here to support the plans for expanding
5 services at the NorthPointe Campus. Our motto at
6 NorthPointe Wellness is that we are here to
7 elevate your path to better health.

8 NorthPointe Wellness offers
9 comprehensive medically integrated fitness
10 programs designed to support each person's journey
11 toward long term health and vitality. We have
12 expert staffing, cutting edge facilities and a
13 wide range of classes and personalized training
14 options to help members achieve their health and
15 wellness goals at any fitness level.

16 Beyond just physical fitness, our
17 holistic approach fosters lasting lifestyle change
18 and empowers individuals to build healthier, more
19 well-balanced lives. We serve at the baseline of
20 care continuum and the proposed expansion of our
21 campus to include inpatient care and an emergency
22 room will play a vital role in addressing
23 community needs and advancing the system's broad
24 health and wellness mission.

1 It will be relatively simple to enhance
2 the existing building. We would be on a different
3 wing -- we would be on a different wing of the
4 building from the licensed hospital, so our
5 services will not be affected. It will be great
6 for our hospital staff to be able to use our
7 fitness center before and after shifts. And if
8 God forbid, someone experiences a medical
9 emergency while exercising, the emergency services
10 will be a key support for our members.

11 These plans ensure that more Illinois
12 patients can receive care within the state,
13 curbing the regular out migration to Wisconsin for
14 care. I'm sure the state would like to see that
15 pattern change. Thank you for your considering my
16 testimony. Please, approve the neighborhood
17 hospital. Thank you.

18 MR. ROATE: Next, the board would like
19 to call Gus Larson.

20 MR. LARSON: Good afternoon. My name is
21 Gus Larson, G-U-S L-A-R-S-O-N. I have the
22 privilege of serving as the director of the
23 NorthPointe campus since 2007. The Beloit Health
24 System has been dedicated to serving the stateline

1 communities, including Roscoe, South Beloit,
2 Rockton, throughout NorthPointe's Health and
3 Wellness campus in Roscoe.

4 For those of you unfamiliar with
5 NorthPointe, is a unique health care campus spread
6 over 122 acres, beautifully restored to Northern
7 Illinois prairie, which is conveniently located
8 just off the Interstate 39-90.

9 Our campus offers a comprehensive range
10 of tailored services to the need of our community,
11 including NorthPointe Health, which provides
12 diagnostic services, immediate care and physician
13 clinics; NorthPointe Wellness, a medically
14 integrated fitness center with the state of the
15 art equipment and amenities; NorthPointe Terrace,
16 our assisted living community; NorthPointe Birth
17 Center offering a comfortable and supportive
18 environment for childbirth; our NorthPointe
19 Surgery Center, a licensed ambulatory surgical
20 center for same day procedures.

21 Through strategic investment and
22 physician services, we have significantly improved
23 healthcare access in our region, unmatched by any
24 other health system.

1 In addition to my role with the Beloit
2 Health System, I serve as a firefighter and EMT
3 with the Harlem Roscoe Fire Protection District.
4 This dual role gives me firsthand insight into the
5 EMS challenges the stateline community faces.

6 A full service emergency department in
7 Roscoe would be transformative for our community.
8 It would reduce patient wait time, decrease
9 ambulance times by 50 percent and free up EMS
10 personnel for other emergency calls within our
11 district. The impact of -- of this development
12 cannot be overstated. We would enhance patient
13 outcomes, ensure our ambulance remain available
14 and ultimately save lives.

15 I urge the Illinois Health and
16 Facilities and Services Review Board to approve
17 this essential initiative as it represents a
18 crucial step forward to a healthier and more
19 resilient community. Thank you.

20 MR. ROATE: Lastly, the board would like
21 to call Dr. Roger Kapoor.

22 MR. KAPOOR: Well, good afternoon. My
23 name is Roger Kapoor. It's R-O-G-E-R K-A-P as in
24 Peter, O-O-R. And I have the pleasure of serving

1 as the senior vice president at the Beloit Health
2 System and really an honor to be here with all of
3 you today and I'm going to be obviously speaking
4 in support of the NorthPointe Neighborhood
5 Hospital.

6 Before I begin, I just want to say thank
7 you, first and foremost, to all the members of the
8 community that took time out of your day to come
9 here today, first responders, just an enormous
10 group of people that put their life on the line
11 every single day. Really appreciate you guys.

12 Of course, our elected officials, our
13 FHN system leadership, as well as, our dedicated
14 physicians, staff members from our mutual systems,
15 board members, all of our partners. Especially, I
16 want to take a moment and just thank all of you up
17 here at the front. It's not easy to stand here
18 for -- and sit for many hours, so we really do
19 appreciate the health system facilities, review
20 board staff and also want to acknowledge the
21 honorable board member Kaatz. Thank you for
22 making the -- the effort to come out today and you
23 come with such expertise in the health care
24 industry. So it's a -- it's a great honor to

1 stand before all of you.

2 As we conclude this hearing, I just want
3 to emphasize that our vision for the Roscoe
4 campus, it's remained unchanged. We want to
5 deliver very timely, compassionate local care to
6 the patients and the families in Illinois. This
7 project really was born out of data, it's born out
8 of need, it's born out of a desire to do what is
9 right for this community.

10 And neighborhood hospitals are not a
11 theoretical model. These have been utilized
12 across not only the state, but across the country.
13 They're a proven scalable solution for communities
14 like the stateline community, an area that really
15 does lack hospital based services, but yet require
16 them without a large regional footprint.

17 And these hospitals, again, are
18 typically around ten beds, which is characterized
19 by what we're presenting. And that's not because
20 of limitations, that's because of design. They
21 are purpose built to be very nimble, to be
22 efficient, again, to be deeply rooted in the
23 neighborhood for which they serve. They're built
24 to handle those most common emergencies and either

1 quickly treat them or stabilize them so that
2 patients ultimately have the best possible
3 outcome.

4 Now, I heard the comment earlier from my
5 respected colleague from Mercy, about what would
6 happen in the scenario where two patients might
7 come in and require the OR at the same time. And
8 it's a valid question, but the answer is actually
9 pretty simple. We'd apply the exact same
10 protocols that every hospital uses, big or small,
11 and we would prioritize based on acuity, we would
12 stabilize and then we would transfer if needed.

13 Again, that's not unique. Large
14 hospitals get overwhelmed. Large hospitals go on
15 diversion. Large hospitals rely on transfer
16 networks. So the difference here is that with a
17 local ER, patients can be seen and stabilized
18 faster. That's better than having to spend 30
19 minutes trying to get to an emergency room before
20 you can see your first point of contact in the
21 healthcare industry. So let's not be mistaken,
22 we're not replacing any existing hospitals, we are
23 literally filling a gap as echoed by our first
24 responders who came up here earlier.

1 Opponents have raised this question
2 about this model and when this model was pushed
3 forward, about a micro hospital by our
4 competitors, the same competitors who are up here
5 now saying this is not a good model, it was
6 brought up as a sign of innovation, as a sign of
7 something pushing the healthcare industry forward;
8 that small format hospitals, like the one in
9 Crystal Lake, was a very advancing form of
10 delivery.

11 Let's not lose sight. Good ideas don't
12 belong to one health system, they belong to the
13 people that they serve. Plain and simple. Let's
14 also be clear about what this hospital is and what
15 this hospital is not, okay. It is not an urgent
16 care center. Urgent care centers, they got their
17 role, but they are not equipped. They are not
18 licensed to accept ambulances. They can't admit
19 patients overnight. They can't handle medical
20 emergencies that require that stabilization.

21 And I'm going to quote Mr. Javon Bea,
22 who when he made his presentation regarding the
23 Crystal Lake Hospital, the micro hospital that was
24 approved, he said, When you have an emergency

1 room, you've got to have some short stay beds to
2 be able to stabilize a patient overnight.

3 We agree with that. Roscoe, Rockton,
4 South Beloit, they lack reliable, local emergency
5 access. While we, of course, respect what urgent
6 care providers and facilities afford, they just
7 cannot and do not fill the gap that we're trying
8 to close and this hospital is going to close that
9 gap.

10 Our community knows this. That's why
11 we've had over 1,400 residents stand behind this
12 project from the very beginning, writing letters,
13 signing petitions, showing up, again and again and
14 again. This isn't manufactured support, okay.
15 These are neighbors standing up for neighbors.
16 These are families wanting peace of mind. These
17 are parents like Mr. Mark Gliebe, who mentioned
18 not wanting to drive 30 minutes round trip with a
19 sick child sitting in the back seat.

20 We've heard the voices of support, we've
21 heard the concerns and we are listening. The
22 reality is every minute counts in an emergency. I
23 want to thank you again for your thoughtfulness,
24 for your commitment to improving healthcare access

1 for all Illinois residents.

2 We're incredibly proud to continue to
3 stand strong with our willingness to build a
4 healthier future for this beautiful stateline
5 region, one that starts with local care, one that
6 starts with the right care delivered at the right
7 place and at the right time. Thank you very much.

8 MR. ROATE: Is there anyone who wishes
9 to testify who has not had an opportunity?

10 MS. NILSON: I do.

11 MR. ROATE: Ma'am, if you'd like to
12 approach.

13 MS. NILSON: I'm Linette Nilson. I live
14 in Rockton, Illinois. Do I have to turn this on?

15 MR. ROATE: It's -- so just speak into
16 it.

17 MS. NILSON: Okay. I'm just here and I
18 hope I don't break down. My husband just passed
19 away this past year. And the EMTs came several
20 times for an emergency. And we were transported
21 -- he was transported to Beloit Health System,
22 which is awesome. They have E ratings. And I'm a
23 neighbor of Rockford, my children were born at
24 Rockford Memorial on the west side that's closing.

1 So, I guess my message is this, when the
2 EMTs come, they take all the time in the world to
3 help the patient and my husband got that. And
4 they stay there until your family can come, they
5 don't leave. And then the sheriff's department
6 comes and stays with you until all your family
7 comes. And I'm going to tell you that time that
8 they take is taking away from other people, but
9 they do it anyway before they leave. And that's
10 what it means about emergency care.

11 And the last time my husband didn't make
12 it, but they were there for him when he died. It
13 helped me. They took the time. But that
14 ambulance sat out there for whatever it took. So
15 the need is there. Thank you.

16 MR. ROATE: Thank you. Is there anyone
17 who wishes to testify who has not had an
18 opportunity? Seeing none, is there anyone who has
19 testified who wishes to provide additional
20 testimony? I would remind everyone to submit your
21 written comments to us so that we have this
22 information for the record.

23 Also, this project is scheduled for
24 consideration by the Illinois Health Facilities

1 and Services Review Board at its September 25th,
2 2025 meeting. This meeting will be held at the
3 Bolingbrook Municipal Golf Club, 2001, Rodeo
4 Drive, Bolingbrook, Illinois.

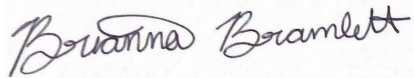
5 The public has until September 5th,
6 2025, to submit written comments. These comments
7 can be sent to my attention at the Illinois Health
8 Facilities and Services Review Board, care of the
9 Illinois Department of Public Health, 525 West
10 Jefferson Street, Second Floor, Springfield,
11 Illinois, 62761. If you prefer, you may e-mail
12 your comments. Our e-mail address is
13 dph.hfsrb@illinois.gov.

14 Are there any questions? Did anybody
15 lose a pen? Seeing that there are no additional
16 questions or comments, I deem this public hearing
17 adjourned. Thank you.

18 (Off the record at 3:47 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER - NOTARY PUBLIC

I, Brianna Bramlett, the officer
before whom the foregoing proceedings were
taken, do hereby certify that any witness(es) in
the foregoing proceedings were fully sworn;
that the proceedings were recorded by me and
thereafter reduced to typewriting by a
qualified transcriptionist; that said digital
audio recording of said proceedings are a
true and accurate record to the best of my
knowledge, skills, and ability; and that I am
neither counsel for, related to, nor employed
by any of the parties to this case and have
no interest, financial or otherwise, in its
outcome.



Brianna Bramlett, Notary Public, for the
State of Illinois
July 25, 2025

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I, Krystin Spolar, CET, do hereby certify
that this transcript was prepared from the digital
audio recording of the foregoing proceeding; that
said proceedings were reduced to typewriting under
my supervision; that said transcript is a true and
accurate record of the proceedings to the best of
my knowledge, skills, and ability; and that I am
neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any
of the parties to the case and have no interest,
financial or otherwise, in its outcome.

Krystin Spolar

Krystin Spolar, CET
Planet Depos, LLC
July 25, 2025