

Date: September 17, 2024

PROJECT #24-027

Site: Huntley Area Public Library

Address: 11000 Ruth Road
Huntley, IL 60142

**NAME: Northwestern Medicine – Huntley
Medical Office Building**

Time: 1:00 PM

ATTENDANCE/NO TESTIMONY ON PROJECT

[illegible]



NUMBER: _____

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Participation Form

Facility or Project Name: Northwestern Medicine Huntley Medical Office Bldg

Project Number: #24-027

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print)

Bridget O'Neil

City

Chicago

State

IL

Zip

60611

Contact Phone Number

847-767-4266

Contact E-Mail Address

borth@nm.org

II. REPRESENTATION

(This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of any group, organization or other entity.)

Entity, Organization, etc. represented in this appearance (i.e., ABC Concerned Citizens for Health Care)

Northwestern Medicine

III. POSITION (Circle appropriate position)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

NEUTRAL

This form must be returned to John Kniery at john.kniery@illinois.gov or 217-785-4111 (fax) or 525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor; Springfield, Illinois 62761 at least 24 hours prior to the HFSRB meeting.

Please note that anyone who does not pre-register in accordance with the HFSRB Public Participation Guidelines will not have an opportunity to speak at a Board meeting.

afternoon

Good ~~morning~~. I'm Bridget Orth, Director of Regulatory Planning for Northwestern Medicine. At Northwestern Medicine, we are committed to delivering better medical care to make a positive difference in people's lives and communities. With 11 hospitals and more than 200 locations across Chicagoland, our team of more than 33,000 staff members, physicians, and medical students believes in our mission to put patients first in everything we do.

Northwestern Medicine serves a broad range of communities and has a long history of expanding access to health care. Over the past several years, we have invested in several outpatient sites close to where patients live and work to ensure convenient access to world-class care including in Gurnee, the Old Irving Park neighborhood in Chicago and the Bronzeville neighborhood in Chicago. These advanced outpatient care centers deliver high quality preventative and routine care most needed by the community while removing barriers to care such as transportation.

The proposed Huntley Medical Office Building project will increase access to Northwestern Medicine cardiology and oncology services, which will have an anticipated positive impact on the top two leading causes of death in McHenry County, heart disease and cancer. Additionally, approximately 300 healthcare and related jobs will be created by this project.

Northwestern Medicine is honored to care for patients from many Chicagoland communities and we are excited to be a part of improving the health and well-being of residents of McHenry County and surrounding areas. We are committed to addressing priority health concerns, improving health equity, and supporting youth education. We look forward to our review by the Health Facilities and Services Review Board on October 29th. Thank you.



Greg Kelley
President

September 17, 2024

Erica Bland-Durosini
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535 W. Jefferson Street (2nd Floor)
Springfield, Illinois 62761
217.782.3516

**Comments on Application 24-027 Northwestern Medicine
Huntley Medical Office Building**

SEIU Healthcare Illinois is a union comprised of 90,000 strong healthcare and social service workers including more than 1,500 service and support workers at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

We are here today to testify as to the urgent need for additional outpatient, specialty, and especially cancer care services in the West and South Side communities where our members live.

We assert and the relevant data affirms that there is much greater need for capital investment and expanded access to these services in the South and West Side communities located in Northwestern Memorial Hospital's primary service area than in the northwest suburban communities adjacent to and that utilize Northwestern Medicine Huntley Hospital.

Community areas in the NMH service area located on the South and West Sides have some of the worst cancer mortality rates in Chicago reflecting decades of segregation, economic exploitation, and divestment and neglect by healthcare providers.

According to the Chicago Department of Public Health, four of the ten Chicago community areas with the highest cancer mortality rates are in the NMH service area.ⁱ

In fact, the South Side Douglas community area has the highest Douglas has the highest cancer mortality rate amongst Chicago Community Areas at 209.2 deaths per 100,000 residents which is 35% greater than McHenry County and 50% greater than Chicago overall.ⁱⁱ

Communities in the NMH service area also have some of the highest cancer incidence rates in the city and far surpass those in McHenry County.

The lung and bronchus incidence rate in the South Side Fuller Park community area is 126.2% greater than the rate in McHenry County.ⁱⁱⁱ

Likewise, the cervical cancer incidence rate in the South Side New City community area is a staggering 176.2% greater than the McHenry County rate.^{iv}

Indicator	Community Area in NMH Service Area	Community Area Rate	McHenry County Rate	% Greater than McHenry County Rate
Cervical Cancer	New City	21.01	7.70	172.9%
Colorectal Cancer	Fuller Park	70.23	36.70	91.4%
Invasive Breast Cancer	Near North Side	187.13	158.20	18.3%
Lung & Bronchus Cancer Incidence Rate	Fuller Park	132.3	58.50	126.2%
Prostate Cancer Incidence Rate	Fuller Park	237.49	114.70	107.1%

This is not to say there is no need for additional services in Huntley and the surrounds. We expect that the new MOB and the services housed therein will be a boon to these communities and make cancer services timelier and more convenient which can save lives by early detection.

We insist, however, that Northwestern Medicine also address the shameful racial health inequities in cancer care access and outcomes on the South and West Sides.

Fortunately, Northwestern has the wherewithal to do both. As of May 31st, Northwestern Medicine listed \$19.3 billion in total assets including a \$10.3 billion investment portfolio. Every dollar therein would be better spent expanding access to care and addressing racial health inequities in the needy communities located in Northwestern Memorial Hospital's primary service area.^v

We recognize and appreciate that Northwestern Medicine has acceded to community demand and begun to invest in the South Side by way of the new outpatient clinic currently under construction in Bronzeville.

But the work can't end there.

Long-neglected South and West Side communities (including notably those in the NMH primary service area) deserve and desperately need the high quality and easily accessible outpatient, specialty, and, as the facts make clear, cancer care services that Northwestern Medicine intends to bring to Huntley.

Therefore, SEIU Healthcare asks that the board reject Application 24-027 Northwestern Medicine Huntley Medical Office Building unless and until such time as Northwestern Medicine commits to a comparable investment to expand outpatient, specialty, and cancer care services on the South and West Sides.

ⁱ Indicators by Community Area, Chicago Health Atlas, <https://chicagohealthatlas.org/>.

ⁱⁱ Indicators by Community Area, Chicago Health Atlas, <https://chicagohealthatlas.org/>; and "2023 Community Health Needs Assessment: Northwestern Medicine Hospitals in McHenry County", p. 36, https://www.nm.org/about-us/nm-community-impact/reports#tabs_accord.

ⁱⁱⁱ Indicators by Community Area, Chicago Health Atlas, <https://chicagohealthatlas.org/>; and Illinois County Cancer Statistics Review Incidence, 2017-2021, Epidemiologic Report Series 24:02, June 2024, p. 21, <https://dph.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idph/events/epidemiology/cancer-registry/County%20Cancer%20Incidence%202017-2021.pdf>.

^{iv} Ibid.

^v Quarterly Report As of and for the Third Quarter Ended May 31, 2024, Northwestern Memorial Healthcare and Subsidiaries, p. 1, <https://www.nm.org/about-us/financial-statements-and-annual-reports>.

TESTIMONIES FOR 9.17 HEARING ON NORTHWESTERN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Germaine Dixon, Lakesha Adams, and Ikeya Johnson

Germaine Dixon, CNA

My name is Germaine Dixon, I'm a CNA, and I live in North Lawndale on the West Side of Chicago. My sister-in-law is fighting breast cancer, but it took her a long time to finally get a diagnosis. Terminal breast cancer is unfortunately very common in her family so when she started to feel sick she knew she needed help. She went to her doctor on the West Side but they sent her home saying there was no problem to be seen. She went again but this time the pain was so bad she went to the emergency room. Again, they sent her home. Over and over again West Side doctors kept telling her that they couldn't find anything wrong. Eventually, my sister-in-law got so sick that we began to fear she may pass away and we would never know what took her life. We started to realize that maybe these hospitals didn't have the equipment or specialists to diagnose what was wrong, so she finally traveled to see specialists at Northshore. Sure enough, Northshore specialists confirmed that she had breast cancer and needed treatment immediately to survive. If we had specialists, especially for cancer, on the West Side, they could've spotted the problem sooner so that my sister-in-law didn't have to experience so much pain.

These stories are not uncommon. In fact, they happen regularly. My sister-in-law's sister unfortunately has a similar story. She went to West Side hospitals for 2 years saying she was in pain but they couldn't find the problem. She finally traveled to Northwestern Memorial Hospital's main campus in River North. At her very first visit they found stage four breast cancer - it's terminal. The lack of resources in our neighborhood hospitals to even diagnose, nevertheless prevent or treat cancer, is literally taking lives. Good healthcare should not be inaccessible, across the city, or expensive. We shouldn't have to fight for care that we deserve.

In fact, our North Lawndale community is in what Northwestern calls its primary service area, meaning that Northwestern has a legal responsibility to assess our health needs and create a plan to help us. North Lawndale has a cancer mortality rate that is 26% higher than McHenry County. Northwestern knows that we need specialty care and a quality cancer center on the West and South sides, but they choose not to act. If my sister-in-law and her family had a Northwestern cancer center and specialized facilities, they could have had much happier lives.

TESTIMONIES FOR 9.17 HEARING ON NORTHWESTERN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Germaine Dixon, Lakesha Adams, and Ikeya Johnson

Lakesha Adams

My name is Lakesha Adams and I am an organizer at SEIU Healthcare. Healthcare impacts everyone's lives. We all go to the doctor, we all get sick. But some of us don't get the same treatment that other people get. A few years back, my little brother got sick. He lives nextdoor to my mom, so when she didn't see him for a few days, she went to check on him. She found him suddenly skinny and very weak, so she took him straight to Roseland Hospital. We lived only 2 blocks from Roseland. The doctors there said he had food poisoning and sent my mom and my little brother home. Except my little brother's sickness didn't go away. It got worse. He struggled to walk, and then my little brother sometimes needed a diaper. My mother kept taking him back to Roseland and doctors would deny him care, saying it was just a stomach ache or whatever. Finally after the fourth visit to Roseland my mother told the doctors they were wrong. She demanded further examination and time for my little brother. Roseland doesn't have specialty care like that, so they transferred him to UIC, where they were immediately able to diagnose him with non-hodgkins lymphoma, or blood cancer. He's in treatments for it at UIC today.

If my mother had not forcefully refused to return home until the doctors at Roseland found a diagnosis, I believe my brother would not be walking the earth today. We need hospitals in our South and West neighborhoods that can treat a community with high rates of cancer mortality and incidence. We don't have screenings or preventative equipment. We don't have specialists. Within Northwestern's primary service area, 13 of 36 Chicago communities have five or less clinically active specialty physicians. Compare that to the hospital Northwestern is proposing an expansion to - they already have 600 physicians in 70 specialties at Northwestern's McHenry campus. We folks on the South and West sides deserve more.

TESTIMONIES FOR 9.17 HEARING ON NORTHWESTERN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Germaine Dixon, Lakesha Adams, and Ikeya Johnson

Ikeya Johnson, Medical Assistant, Roseland

My name is Ikeya Johnson and I am a Medical Assistant at Roseland Hospital. I'm here to tell you about Roseland's lack of specialty and cancer care, and how difficult it is to transfer highly sick patients to another hospital that can properly serve and save their lives. When I worked in the ER, patients often came in that were terminally ill or at high severity. Our job was to get them stable so that we can transfer them as soon as possible. You see, many hospitals on the West and South sides like Roseland do not have equipment or specialists in order to take care of very sick patients. If a cancer patient comes to Roseland, we do not have chemotherapy, preventative care, or screenings. Best we have is a mammogram truck, which means we can only screen for breast cancer. Our community knows that, but Roseland is what we've got, so people still come and we do what we can to help.

As soon as we can, we transfer patients that are very sick to either Rush, UChicago, or Northwestern. But we run into problems. We typically have to request transfers at 3 to 4 hospitals before one finally decides to give mercy and take in one of our high severity patients. This process normally takes 2 to 3 days, which means we have a highly sick patient at Roseland for days before they can get the specialty care they need. And then we have to transport very sick patients to further away hospitals, which is very risky. We need more options, closer hospitals, and more specialty providers available to us on the South and West sides. Especially when our neighborhoods develop cancer and experience health issues more often, we need the same if not more opportunities than what folks have on the North side. The longer we wait to increase access to quality care, the more lives are at risk.

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