

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

IN RE:)
)
Proposed project (#E-017-24))
)
Ascension Saint Mary-Kankakee,)
Kankakee, Illinois)

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

held at the Public Hearing on the proposed project known as Project (E-017-24), Ascension Saint Mary-Kankakee, Kankakee, Illinois, held at the Kankakee Public Library, 201 East Merchant Street, Kankakee, Illinois, on Friday, September 6, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.

MR. GEORGE ROATE - Program Reviewer
MR. MIKE CONSTANTINO - Senior Program Reviewer
MS. BLANCA R. DOMINGUEZ - Legal Counsel
MR. JOHN KNIERY - Board Administrator
MS. SHARIE RYAN - Board Administrative Assistant
DR. AUDREY TANKSLEY - IHFSRB

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1 MR. ROATE: Good morning. My name is George
2 Roate. I am accompanied by Mr. John Kniery, Board
3 Administrator, Ms. Blanca Dominguez, Board Legal Counsel,
4 Mr. Mike Constantino, Senior Reviewer, Ms. Sharie Ryan,
5 Board Administrative Assistant, and Dr. Audrey Tanksley
6 from the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review
7 Board. We're from the Illinois Department of Public
8 Health and represent the Illinois Health Facilities and
9 Services Review Board. We are here to conduct a public
10 hearing on the proposed project known as
11 Exemption-017-24, Ascension Saint Mary Hospital-Kankakee.

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

15 Prime HealthCare Services, Incorporated,
16 is purchasing Ascension Saint Mary's Hospital located at
17 500 West Court Street, Kankakee, at a cost of 33 --
18 \$33,030,711. This transaction is germane with Prime
19 HealthCare, Incorporated's proposal to purchase nine
20 hospitals and two ambulatory surgery centers located
21 throughout the metropolitan Chicago area at a cost of
22 approximately \$375 million.

23 The public hearing will take place
24 pursuant to Chapter 20 Illinois Code 3960. The hearing

1 is scheduled for today, Friday, September 6, 2024, from
2 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Kankakee Public Library,
3 201 East Merchant Street in Kankakee. The public hearing
4 is to be held by the Illinois Department of Public Health
5 pursuant to the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act.
6 The hearing is open to the public and will afford an
7 opportunity for parties with interest to present written
8 or verbal written comment relevant to the project. All
9 allegations or assertions should be relevant to the need
10 for the proposed project and be supported with two copies
11 of documentation or materials that are printed or typed
12 on paper size 8 1/2 by 11 inches.

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

22 To ensure that the Illinois Health
23 Facilities and Services Review Board's public hearings
24 protect the privacy and maintain the confidentiality of

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

10 Those of you who came with prepared text
11 for your presentation may choose to submit the text
12 without giving testimony. However, if you are giving
13 oral testimony, please be as brief as possible. As per
14 the legal notice, I'd appreciate two copies of your
15 testimony. When you make your presentation, please give
16 the court reporter the spelling of your complete name.

17 We have identified a chief spokesperson
18 for the applicant, and we will allow that individual to
19 make the first presentation. The remaining testimony
20 will be taken in order of the names on the registers.
21 Please hold any questions until all testimony is
22 presented. Thank you.

23 First, the Board would like to call
24 Mr. Fred Ortega. Oh, okay, I'm sorry.

1 MS. DAVENPORT: Do you want me to go up there?

2 MR. ROATE: We'll go ahead, and we'll call
3 Ms. Polly Davenport.

4 MS. DAVENPORT: Do I go up there?

5 MR. ROATE: Please do. And we have no
6 microphone today so we ask --

7 MS. DAVENPORT: Got it. Good morning. My name
8 is Polly, P-o-l-l-y, Davenport, D-a-v-e-n-p-o-r-t.

9 Good morning, everyone. I am Polly
10 Davenport. I serve as the Chief Executive Officer for
11 Ascension Illinois. I would like to first thank you,
12 thank the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review
13 Board for the opportunity to speak to you on behalf of
14 our Ascension Illinois Hospitals.

15 I'm happy to be here today and to share
16 with you how we came to the decision to transfer
17 ownership of our -- nine of our fourteen hospitals to
18 Prime HealthCare. In order to ensure our mission of
19 serving those most vulnerable continues, and so that we
20 may flourish and continue to -- we continue to explore
21 new options to best serve our opportunities in our
22 communities as we adapt to the rapidly changing
23 healthcare environment.

24 After thorough due diligence, a values

1 compatibility assessment and an ethics discernment
2 process, Ascension selected Prime HealthCare as the best
3 steward of these facilities for the future.

4 Prime HealthCare is well-positioned to
5 serve our community through an integrated care delivery
6 system to ensure that the greater Chicago area has
7 sustainable quality healthcare access for generations to
8 come. Thank you.

9 MR. ROATE: Thank you. Do you have a
10 copy of -- oh, we have a copy of your presentation.
11 Thank you.

12 Next, the Board would like to call
13 Mr. Fred Ortega.

14 MR. ORTEGA: Thank you. Fred Ortega. F-r-e-d.
15 O-r-t-e-g-a. Good morning. My name is Fred Ortega. I
16 am the Corporate Director of Government Relations for
17 Prime HealthCare. I want to start by thanking the
18 Board's dedicated staff for organizing these meetings --
19 these very important hearings and for everyone who's
20 attended here today.

21 I would like to start by stating that
22 Prime HealthCare considers it an honor and a tremendous
23 responsibility to have been selected by Ascension Health
24 as the stewards of its Illinois facilities, including

1 Saint Mary-Kankakee, their employees and patients, and
2 their combined legacy of service to their communities.

3 Prime HealthCare was founded in 2001 with
4 a mission of saving, improving and investing in community
5 hospitals. We have since delivered on that mission
6 growing into an integrated delivery system, including 44
7 hospitals in 14 states, more than 300 outpatient
8 locations, and nearly 45,000 employees and physicians.

9 We are excited to welcome the Ascension
10 facilities into our Prime HealthCare family, and we
11 strongly believe that we are uniquely positioned to serve
12 these hospitals and their communities to ensure that the
13 greater Chicago area continues to have sustainable
14 quality healthcare access far into the future. We have
15 done this for communities across the nation, and we're
16 confident that we can deliver for the residents of
17 Illinois and beyond.

18 It is Prime HealthCare's unwavering
19 dedication to providing compassionate quality care
20 building value, preserving access and improving health
21 outcomes that allows us to consistently be nationally
22 ranked among the best hospital systems in the nation.
23 Prime HealthCare has been named a top 10 and top 15
24 health system by Truven Health Analytics. Our hospitals

1 have been named among the nation's 100 top hospitals 69
2 times and have received more patient safety excellence
3 awards from Healthgrades than any other health sytem in
4 the past eight years.

5 In 2023 alone, we've received more than
6 500 clinical quality awards from national organizations
7 such as the Leapfrog Group, U.S. News and World Report
8 and many others. Prime has also been recognized as a top
9 10 health system in the nation by the Lown Institute with
10 A grades for health equity, social responsibility,
11 patient and clinical outcomes, and inclusivity.

12 Prime HealthCare is not only bringing
13 this commitment to quality and health equity to the
14 Ascension Illinois facilities. We have also committed to
15 investing \$250 million in Ascension's facilities to fund
16 capital improvements, including substantial technology
17 investments in system upgrades as well as hiring all of
18 the acquired facilities' workforce subject to Prime's
19 standard hiring practices, policies and titles.

20 Prime HealthCare has also committed to
21 continuing all services at these facilities and hope to
22 expand services based on community needs. We also have
23 committed to maintaining levels of charity care and
24 continuing existing charity care and community benefit

1 programs preserving these facilities roles as valued
2 community partners. This is not an exceptional
3 commitment. It is what we do for all the communities we
4 serve. In fact, Prime HealthCare has provided more than
5 \$12 billion in charity care and community benefits since
6 2010, and nearly \$2 billion in capital improvements since
7 2005 to transform hospitals and ensure health equity and
8 care in communities across the country.

9 Since 2001, Prime HealthCare has also
10 rescued various catholic hospitals respecting the
11 traditions of these historic facilities while promoting
12 the spiritual care and well-being of all members of the
13 community, including the most vulnerable on the margins
14 of society. We pledge to do this for the Ascension
15 facilities as well.

16 I'll close with the words of our founder.
17 If you could see the potential for good, feel the impact
18 of kindness on others, touch the spirit of a generous
19 cause just a little bit every day, then you have embarked
20 on a noble path. This perfectly encapsulates the
21 dedication to compassionate care and social
22 responsibility at the heart of Prime HealthCare's
23 mission. We look forward to sharing that dedication to
24 caring and improving our communities with all the

1 patients who depend on these hospitals and facilities for
2 generations to come. Thank you so much.

3 MR. ROATE: Thank you.

4 Next, the Board would like to call
5 Mr. Otis Story, Sr.

6 MR. STORY: Good morning. My name is Otis
7 Story. It's spelled like -- my first name is O-t-i-s.
8 Story is spelled S-t-o-r-y, Senior, S-r.

9 As President of Saint Mary's Kankakee
10 Hospital, I would like to thank the Board for providing
11 us with this opportunity to hear from us and to hear from
12 the community today during this public hearing and look
13 forward to appearing before the Board in the future.
14 Their support of this transfer of ownership provides
15 jobs -- preserve jobs and ensures needed healthcare
16 access across the Chicagoland as well as investment in
17 Illinois for the future. I am grateful. Thank you.

18 MR. ROATE: Thank you, sir.

19 Is there anyone who wishes to -- is there
20 anyone who wishes to testify who has not had an
21 opportunity? Seeing none. Is there anyone who has
22 testified who wishes to provide additional testimony?

23 I would remind everyone to submit your
24 written comments to us so that we have this information

1 for the record. Also this project is scheduled for
2 consideration by the Illinois Health Facilities and
3 Services Review Board at its October 29th, 2024 meeting.
4 This meeting will be held at the Bolingbrook Golf Club,
5 2001 Rodeo Drive, Bolingbrook, Illinois. The public has
6 until October 9th to submit written comments. These
7 comments can be sent to my attention at the Illinois
8 Health Facilities and Services Review Board care of the
9 Illinois Department of Public Health, 525 West Jefferson
10 Street, 2nd floor, Springfield, Illinois 62761. If you
11 prefer, you may email your comments. Our email address
12 is DPH.HFSRB@Illinois.gov.

13 Are there any questions? Seeing that
14 there are no additional questions or comments, I deem
15 this public hearing adjourned. Thank you.

16 (Which were all the proceedings had
17 at the above-entitled matter on
18 this date.)
19
20
21
22
23
24

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)

) SS:

2 COUNTY OF W I L L)

3

4 I, Deborah A. Rannells, CSR, a certified
5 shorthand reporter in the State of Illinois, do hereby
6 certify that the above matter was recorded
7 stenographically by me and reduced to writing by me.

8 I FURTHER CERTIFY that the foregoing
9 transcript of the said matter is a true, correct, and
10 complete transcript of the proceedings at the time and
11 place specified herein before.

12 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative or
13 employee of any of the parties, nor a relative or
14 employee of the attorneys of record, or financially
15 interested directly or indirectly in the action.

16 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
17 hand at Chicago, Illinois, this 16th day of September,
18 2024.

19

20

21

Deborah A. Rannells

Certified Shorthand Reporter

22

Illinois CSR License No. 084-003408

23

24



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