

ILLINOIS HEALTH FACILITIES
AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING

IN RE: ASCENSION ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL ELGIN

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had at the hearing in
the above-entitled cause before MR. GEORGE ROATE,
Hearing Officer, at Gail Borden Public Library, 270
North Grove Avenue, Elgin, Illinois, on
September 26, 2024, commencing at 1:00 p.m.

MR. ROATE: Good afternoon. My name is George Roate. I'm accompanied by Mr. John Kniery, Board Administrator, Ms. Blanca Dominguez, Board Legal Counsel, and Mr. Mike Constantine, Senior Reviewer.

We are from the Illinois Department of Public Health and represent the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board. We are here to conduct a public hearing on the proposed project known as Ascension E-02-024, Ascension St. Joseph Hospital Elgin.

As per the rules of the Health Facilities and Services Review Board, I would like to read the legal notice into the record: Prime Healthcare Services, Inc. is purchasing Presence St. Joseph Hospital Elgin, also known as Ascension St. Joseph Hospital in Elgin, located at 77 North Airlite Street, Elgin, at a cost of \$28,831,711.

This transaction is germane with Prime Healthcare's proposal to purchase nine hospitals and two ambulatory surgery centers located throughout the Metropolitan Chicago area at a total cost of approximately \$375 million.

A public hearing will take place pursuant to Illinois Code 3960. The hearing is scheduled for Thursday, September 26, 2024, from 1:00 p.m. to

3:00 p.m., at the Gail Borden Public Library, 270 North Grove Avenue, Elgin.

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

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

Consideration by the State Board has been tentatively scheduled for the October 29th, 2024 Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board meeting.

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

The last form is for individuals to register their attendance who do not wish to testify.

To ensure that the Illinois Health Facilities

and Services Review Board's public hearings protect the privacy and maintain the confidentiality of an individual's health information, covered entities as defined by the Health Insurance Portability Act of 1996 such as facilities, hospital providers, health plans, healthcare clearinghouses, submitting oral or written testimony that discloses protected health information of individuals shall have a written -- a valid written authorization from that individual. The authorization shall allow the covered entity to share the individual's protected health information at this hearing.

Those of you who came with prepared text for your presentation may choose to submit that text without giving testimony. However, if you are giving oral testimony, please be as brief as possible.

As per the legal notice, I would appreciate two copies of your testimony. When you make your presentation, please give the court reporter the correct -- the spelling of your complete name.

We have identified a chief spokesperson for the applicant. We would like that individual to make the first presentation.

The remaining testimony will be taken in the order of the names on the registers. Please hold all

questions until all testimony is presented. Thank you.

First the Board would like to call Ms. Julie Mirostaw.

MS. MIROSTAW: Thank you. Good afternoon. My name is Julie Mirostaw, J-u-l-i-e, M-i-r-o-s-t-a-w, and I serve as the Chief Advocacy Officer for Ascension Illinois.

I'd like to start today by thanking the Illinois Health Facilities Services and Review Board for the opportunity to speak on behalf of our Ascension Illinois hospitals. I'm happy to be here to share with you how we came to the decision to transfer ownership of nine of our 14 hospitals to Prime Healthcare.

In order to ensure our mission of serving those most vulnerable continues to flourish, we continually explore new options to best serve our communities as we adapt to the rapidly changing healthcare environment.

After thorough due diligence, a values compatibility assessment, and an ethics discernment process, Ascension selected Prime Healthcare as the best steward of these facilities for the future. Prime Healthcare is well positioned to serve our communities through an integrated care delivery system to ensure

1 that the greater Chicago area has sustainable, quality
2 healthcare access for generations to come. Thank you.

3 MR. ROATE: Thank you. Next the Board would like
4 to call Mr. Steve Aleman.

5 MR. ALEMAN: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is
6 Steve Aleman. I'm the chief financial officer of Prime
7 Healthcare.

8 Prime Healthcare considers it an honor and a
9 tremendous responsibility to have been selected by
10 Ascension Health as a steward of its Illinois
11 facilities, their employees, and patients, and their
12 combined legacy of service to their communities.

13 Prime Healthcare was founded in 2001 with a
14 mission of saving, improving, and investing in
15 community hospitals. We have since delivered on that
16 mission, growing into an integrated delivery system
17 including 44 hospitals in 14 states, more than 300
18 outpatient locations, and nearly 45,000 employees and
19 physicians.

20 We are excited to welcome the Ascension
21 facilities into our Prime Healthcare family, and we
22 strongly believe we are uniquely positioned to serve
23 these hospitals and their communities to ensure the
24 greater Chicago area continues to have sustainable,

1 quality healthcare access far into the future.

2 We have done this for communities across the
3 nation, and are confident we can deliver for the
4 residents of Chicagoland and beyond. It is Prime
5 Healthcare's unwavering dedication to providing
6 compassionate, quality care, building value, preserving
7 access, and improving health outcomes that allows Prime
8 to consistently be nationally ranked among the best
9 hospital systems in the nation.

10 Prime Healthcare has been named a top 10 and
11 top 15 health system by Truven Analytics. Our hospitals
12 have been named some of the nation's top 100 hospitals
13 69 times, and have received more patient safety
14 excellence awards from Healthgrades than any other
15 system in the past eight years.

16 In 2023 alone we received more than 500
17 clinical quality awards from national organizations such
18 as the Leapfrog Group, U.S. News and World Report, and
19 many more. Prime has also been recognized as a top 10
20 health system in the nation by the Lown Institute, with
21 A grades for health equity, social responsibility,
22 patient and clinical outcomes, and inclusivity.

23 Prime Healthcare is not only bringing this
24 community quality and health equity to the Ascension

1 Illinois facilities. We have also committed to
2 investing \$250 million in the Ascension facilities to
3 fund capital improvements, including substantial
4 technology investments and system upgrades, as well as
5 hiring all the acquired facilities' workforce, subject
6 to Prime's standard hiring practice, policies, and
7 titles.

8 Prime Healthcare has also committed to
9 continuing all the services of the facilities and,
10 pending our internal review, hope to expand services
11 based on community needs. We have also committed to
12 maintaining levels of charity care and continuing
13 existing charity care and community benefit programs,
14 preserving these facilities' roles as valued community
15 partners. This is not an exceptional commitment; it is
16 what we do for all the communities that we serve.

17 In fact, Prime Healthcare has provided more
18 than \$12 billion in charity care and community benefits
19 since 2010, and nearly \$2 billion in capital
20 improvements since 2005 to transform hospitals and
21 ensure health equity and care in communities across the
22 country.

23 Since 2001, Prime Healthcare has also rescued
24 various Catholic hospitals, respecting the tradition of

1 these historic facilities while promoting the spiritual
2 care and well being of all members of the community,
3 including the most vulnerable on the margins of society.
4 We pledge to do this for the Ascension facilities as
5 well.

6 I want to close with the words of our founder
7 who said if you can see the potential for good, feel the
8 impact of kindness on others, touch the spirit of
9 generous cause just a bit every day, then you have
10 embarked on a noble path. This perfectly encapsulates
11 the dedication to compassionate care and social
12 responsibility at the heart of Prime Healthcare's
13 mission.

14 We look forward to sharing that dedication to
15 caring and improving our communities with all the
16 patients who depend on these hospitals and facilities
17 for generations to come. Thank you.

18 MR. ROATE: Thank you. Next, the Board would like
19 to call Ms. Eva Balderrama.

20 MS. BALDERRAMA: Good afternoon. Eva Balderrama.
21 I will read the closing comments.

22 We thank the Board for providing us the
23 opportunity to hear from our community today during the
24 public hearing and look forward to appearing before the

Page 10 1 Board. 2 Their support of this transferred ownership 3 preserves jobs and ensures needed healthcare across 4 Chicagoland, as well as investment in Illinois for the 5 future. Thank you. 6 MR. ROATE: Is there anyone who wishes to provide 7 testimony who has not had an opportunity? 8 Seeing none, is there anyone who has testified 9 who wishes to provide additional testimony? 10 I would remind everyone to submit your written 11 comments to us so that we may have this information for 12 the record. 13 Also, this project is scheduled for 14 consideration by the Illinois Health Facilities and 15 Services Review Board at its October 29th, 2024 meeting. 16 This meeting will be held at the Municipal Bolingbrook 17 Golf Club, 2001 Rodeo Drive, Bolingbrook, Illinois. 18 The public has until October 9th, 2024 to 19 submit written comments. These comments can be sent to 20 my attention at the Illinois Health Facilities and 21 Services Review Board, care of the Illinois Department 22 of Public Health, 525 West Jefferson Street, Second 23 Floor, Springfield, Illinois 62761. 24 If you prefer, you may e-mail your comments.	Page 11 1 Our e-mail address is dph.hfsrb@illinois.gov. 2 Are there any questions? 3 Seeing that there are no additional questions 4 or comments, I deem this public hearing adjourned. 5 Thank you. 6 (Which were all the proceedings 7 had in the above-entitled cause 8 on this date.) 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24
Page 12 1 STATE OF ILLINOIS) 2) SS: 3 COUNTY OF C O O K) 4 5 I, GINA M. TOMASONE, a Certified Shorthand 6 Reporter of the State of Illinois and Notary Public of 7 the County of Cook, do hereby certify that I caused the 8 proceedings in the above-captioned cause to be reported 9 in shorthand and that the foregoing is a true, complete, 10 and correct transcript of said proceedings as appears 11 from my stenographic notes so taken and transcribed 12 under my personal direction. 13 IN WITNESS WHEREOF I do hereunto set my hand and 14 affix my notarial seal at Chicago, Illinois, this 15 day of , 20 . 16 17 18 19 GINA M. TOMASONE, CSR 20 C.S.R. License No. 084-003763 21 Notary Public, Cook County, Illinois 22 23 24	

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