



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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525 WEST JEFFERSON ST, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62761 • (217) 782-3516 FAX: (217) 785-4111

**PROJECT PUBLIC HEARING REPORT**

Exemption #E-019-24 – Ascension Saint Joseph’s - Joliet

September 6, 2024

On September 6, the public hearing on the sale of Ascension Saint Joseph’s—Joliet to Prime Healthcare Services, Inc. (#Exemption #E-019-24) was conducted by the State Board Staff, including John Kniery, Blanca Dominguez, George Roate, Mike Constantino, and Shari Ryan. State Board Chairwoman Ms. Debra Savage was also present.

The public hearing took place at the Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park & Theatre, 201 Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, from 3:00 to 3:15 pm on September 6.

Individuals who registered their attendance at the hearing:

Support: 7  
Oppose: 1  
Neutral: 6

Individuals who registered to speak at the hearing: 4

Support: 3  
Oppose: 1

Total individuals registered: 14

Number of Letters received: 3

Support: 3  
Oppose: 0

Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board  
PUBLIC HEARING REGISTER  
PROJECT # E-019-24

Site: Billie Limacher  
Bicentennial Park & Theatre  
Address: 201 Jefferson St.  
Joliet, IL 60432

Date: September 6, 2024

NAME: Ascension St. Joseph's - Joliet

Time: 1:00 PM

ATTENDANCE/NO TESTIMONY ON PROJECT

| NAME            | AGENCY, ORGANIZATION OR INSTITUTION REPRESENTED | CITY        | SUPPORT | OPPOSE | NEUTRAL |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------|--------|---------|
| Julie R. Knick  | Ascension IL                                    | Joliet      | ✓       |        |         |
| JACK KIKER      | Ascension IL                                    | Joliet      | ✓       |        |         |
| Julie Miralator | Ascension                                       | Chicago     | ✓       |        |         |
| Jane Solares    | Ascension                                       | Chicago     | ✓       |        |         |
| Fred Ortega     | Prime                                           | Ontario CA  | ✓       |        |         |
| Polly Dayenport | Ascension                                       | Chicago     | ✓       |        |         |
| Counting for    | CBL                                             | Chicago     | ✓       |        |         |
| Barbara         | Ascension                                       | Joliet      | ✓       |        |         |
| Jessie Mollay   | Herald-News                                     | Rox Heights |         |        | ✓       |
| Wany Niles      | Herald-News                                     |             |         |        | ✓       |
| DAMON ZACHACH   | CITIZEN                                         | JOLIET      |         | ✓      |         |
| TKent E Blood   | CITIZEN                                         | JOLIET      |         |        | ✓       |
| Gaye DeLeon     | CITIZEN                                         | JOLIET      | ✓       |        |         |
| Rachel Ventura  | Senator District 43                             | Joliet      |         |        | ✓       |
|                 |                                                 |             |         |        |         |
|                 |                                                 |             |         |        |         |
|                 |                                                 |             |         |        |         |
|                 |                                                 |             |         |        |         |



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

NUMBER:

1

**Public Participation Form**

**Facility or Project Name:** Ascension Saint Joseph's - Joliet

**Project Number:** #E-019-24

**I. IDENTIFICATION**

Name (Please Print)

Polly Davenport

City

Chicago

State

IL

Zip

60606

Contact Phone Number

312-308-1545

Contact E-Mail Address

polly.davenport@ascension.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)

Entity organization

**III. POSITION (Circle appropriate position)**

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

NEUTRAL

This form must be returned to John Kniery at [john.kniery@illinois.gov](mailto:john.kniery@illinois.gov) or 217-785-4111 (fax) or 525 West Jefferson Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

NUMBER: (2)

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

**Public Participation Form**

**Facility or Project Name:** Ascension Saint Joseph's - Joliet

**Project Number:** #E-019-24

**I. IDENTIFICATION**

Name (Please Print) Fred Ortega

City Ontario

State OH

Zip 91761

Contact Phone Number

626 516-5506

Contact E-Mail Address

fortega@~~g~~primehealthcare.com

**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)

Prime Healthcare

**III. POSITION (Circle appropriate position)**

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

NEUTRAL

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NUMBER: 3STATE OF ILLINOIS  
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

## Public Participation Form

Facility or Project Name: **Ascension Saint Joseph's - Joliet**Project Number: **#E-019-24**

## I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) DAMON ZDUNICHCity JOLIET State IL Zip 60435

Contact Phone Number

(312) 320-1610

Contact E-Mail Address

DZDUNICH@EMAIL.COM

## 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)

CITIZEN  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## III. POSITION (Circle appropriate position)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

NEUTRAL

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

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STATE OF ILLINOIS  
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

NUMBER: Closer

Public Participation Form

Facility or Project Name: **Ascension Saint Joseph's - Joliet**

Project Number: **#E-019-24**

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) Barbara J. Martin

City Joliet State IL Zip 60445

Contact Phone Number

815-354-5495

Contact E-Mail Address

barbara.martin@ascension.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)

Saint Joseph Medical Center - Ascension

III. POSITION (Circle appropriate position)

SUPPORT

OPPOSE

NEUTRAL

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## Ascension

Hello.

My name is Polly Davenport and I serve as chief executive officer for Ascension Illinois.

I would like to first start by thanking the Illinois Health Facilities Services and Review Board for the opportunity to speak to you 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 that the greater Chicago area has sustainable, quality healthcare access for generations to come.

Fred Ortega

## Prime Healthcare Introductory Remarks

Sept. 6, 2024

Ascension St. Joseph - Joliet

Prime Healthcare considers it an honor and tremendous responsibility to have been selected by Ascension Health as the stewards of its Illinois facilities, their employees and patients, and their combined legacy of service to their communities.

Prime Healthcare was founded in 2001 with a mission of saving, improving and investing in community hospitals. We have since delivered on that mission, growing into an integrated delivery system including 44 hospitals in 14 states, more than 300 outpatient locations, and nearly 45,000 employees and physicians. We are excited to welcome the Ascension facilities into our Prime Healthcare family, and we strongly believe we are uniquely positioned to serve these hospitals and their communities to ensure that the greater Chicago area continues to have sustainable, quality healthcare access far into the future. We have done this for communities across the nation, and are confident we can deliver for the residents of Chicagoland and beyond.

It is Prime Healthcare's unwavering dedication to providing compassionate, quality care, building value, preserving access and improving health outcomes that allows Prime to consistently be nationally ranked among the best hospital systems in the nation. Prime Healthcare has been named a Top 10 and Top 15 Health System by Truven Health Analytics. Our hospitals have been named among the nation's "100 Top Hospitals" 69 times and have received more Patient Safety Excellence Awards from Healthgrades than any other health system in the past eight years. In 2023 alone we received more than 500 clinical quality awards from national organizations such as The Leapfrog Group, US News and World Report, and many more. Prime has also been recognized as a Top 10 Health System in the Nation by the Lown Institute, with A grades for Health Equity, Social Responsibility, Patient and Clinical Outcomes, and Inclusivity.

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

Prime Healthcare has also committed to continuing all services at these facilities and hope to expand services based on community needs. We have also committed to maintaining levels of charity care and continuing existing charity care and community benefit programs, preserving these facilities' roles as valued community partners. This is not an exceptional commitment; it is what we do for all the communities we serve. In fact, Prime Healthcare has provided more than 12 billion dollars in charity care and community benefits since 2010 and nearly \$2 billion dollars in capital improvements since 2005 to transform hospitals and ensure health equity and care in communities across the country.

Since 2001, Prime Healthcare has also rescued various Catholic hospitals, respecting the traditions of these historic facilities while promoting the spiritual care and well being of all members of the

community, including the most vulnerable on the margins of society. We pledge to do this for the Ascension facilities as well.

I want to close with the words of our founder: "If you can see the potential for good, feel the impact of kindness on others, touch the spirit of a generous cause just a bit every day, then you have embarked on a noble path." This perfectly encapsulates the dedication to compassionate care and social responsibility at the heart of Prime Healthcare's mission. We look forward to sharing that dedication to caring and improving our communities with all the patients who depend on these hospitals and facilities for generations to come. Thank you.



**Ascension**

*Barb Martin  
end of session*

### **Closing Comment**

We thank the Board for providing us the opportunity to hear from our community today during this public hearing and look forward to appearing before the Board. Their support of this transfer of ownership preserves jobs and ensures needed healthcare access across Chicagoland, as well as investment in Illinois for the future.

Thank you.