



STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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

PROJECT PUBLIC HEARING REPORT

Exemption #E-022-24 – Ascension Mercy

September 24, 2024

On September 24, 2024, the State Board Staff (John Kniery, Blanca Dominguez, George Roate, and Mike Constantino) conducted a public hearing on the sale of Ascension Mercy to Prime Healthcare Services, Inc. (#Exemption #E-022-24).

The hearing was held at the Aurora Public Library, Mtg – room, 101 S River Street, Aurora, Illinois, from 1:00 to 1:15 p.m.

Individuals who registered their attendance at the hearing:

Support: 8
Oppose: 0
Neutral: 2

Individuals who registered to speak at the hearing: 3

Support: 3
Oppose: 0

Total individuals registered: 10

Number of Letters received: 3

Support: 2
Oppose: 0

Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board
PUBLIC HEARING REGISTER
PROJECT # E-022-24

Site: Aurora Public Library
 Mtg Rm 125/126
 Address: 101 S. River Street
 Aurora, IL 60507

NAME: Ascension Mercy

Date: September 24, 2024

Time: 1:00 PM

ATTENDANCE/NO TESTIMONY ON PROJECT

NAME	AGENCY, ORGANIZATION OR INSTITUTION REPRESENTED	CITY	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	NEUTRAL
Julie Mirostawa	Ascension IL	Chicago	X		
Olga Solares	Ascension IL	Chicago	X		
Polly Davenport	Ascension IL	Chicago			
Fernando Grub	Ascension MERCY	Nept-vill	X		
STEVE ALEMAN	PRIME HEALTHCARE	Chicago	X		
Julie Raknich	Ascension Aurora, IL	Aurora, IL	X		
Jessica Shins		Aurora, IL	X		
JACK AXEL	AXEL & ASSOCIATES	BUFFALO GROVE	X		
John Diederich	Rush Copley Med Center	Aurora			X
Arifa Aiyash	Rush System for Health	Chicago			

NUMBER: 1

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Participation Form

Facility or Project Name: Ascension Mercy

Project Number: #E-022-24

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) Polly Dauengut
City Chicago State IL Zip 60611

Contact Phone Number

312-308-1845

Contact E-Mail Address

polly.dauengut@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)

Ascension

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.



Ascension

First

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.

Ascension
200 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606

ascension.org



NUMBER: 2

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Participation Form

Facility or Project Name: Ascension Mercy

Project Number: #E-022-24

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) STEVE ALEMAN

City ONTARIO State CA Zip 92675

Contact Phone Number

805 506 1792

Contact E-Mail Address

stevealeman@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

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.



Prime Healthcare

Saving hospitals. Saving jobs. Saving lives.

STEVE ALEMAN

Prime Healthcare Introductory Remarks

Sept. 24, 2024

Ascension Mercy

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 Ascension St. Mary and, pending our internal review, 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





Prime Healthcare

Saving hospitals. Saving jobs. Saving lives.

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.





NUMBER: Last

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Participation Form

Facility or Project Name: Ascension Mercy

Project Number: #E-022-24

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print)

FERNANDO GRUTA

City

Aurora

State

IL

Zip

60540

Contact Phone Number

443-22-7705

Contact E-Mail Address

Fernando.Gruta@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)

Ascension Mercy

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.



Ascension

lost

FERNANDO
~~GRUTA~~ GRUTA

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.