

June 13, 2024

RECEIVED

JUN 20 2024

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Mail to By July 19

IL Health Facilities & Services Review Board ("IHFSRB")
Attn: Debra Savage, Chairwoman
525 West Jefferson, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: Opposition Letter for OSF St. Elizabeth Medical Center – Replacement hospital (CON Project #24-011); &
Opposition Letter for OSF St. Elizabeth Medical Center – Discontinuation of facility (CON Project #24-013)

Dear Chairwoman:

I am writing to you in opposition of OSF's plans to discontinue services at St. Elizabeth Medical Center ("SEMC") in Ottawa, and in opposition of OSF's plans to demolish the hospital and build a newer, smaller facility that greatly reduces access to inpatient hospital services.

In March 2024, OSF announced plans to build a new hospital in Ottawa and demolish the one built in the 70s. The new hospital would keep 26 mental health beds; but the 5-bed ICU and 14-bed OB units would be eliminated; and only 12 med/surg beds would remain (a 78% reduction from the 54 it has today). In stark contrast, OSF shared plans to re-open Peru's once shuttered hospital as the system's new inpatient hub on I-80, and increase the number of beds. **Even with OSF re-opening the Peru hospital with an increase in beds, the severe reduction planned for SEMC-Ottawa still leaves the C-02 region short 24 med/surg beds and 2 OB beds, and will place all ICU beds West of I-39 - leaving a gaping hole in access in LaSalle County.**

Please vote against OSF's projects to demolish our hospital in Ottawa and replace it with a smaller facility that eliminates our ICU and OB units, and severely reduces our medical surgical unit to one of the smallest in the state. OSF's plans do not align with the growth in our area – both traditional residential and also through tourism as Heritage Harbor looks to build 300 vacation homes. OSF's plans also do not align with the promises they made to our community 12 short years ago – and the promises stated in their exemption application to the IHFSRB in 2012.

It is our hope that OSF takes the time to make a better plan for our hospital, one that is right-sized for our community's needs and honors the spirit of the partnership we entered into with their system and our local hospital.

Thank you,

Name (Signature):

Matt Moser

Name (Printed):

Matt Moser

Address:

1008 Lakewood Dr

City/State/Zip:

OTTAWA ILL 61350

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Thank you,

Name (Signature):

Ann Nelson

Name (Printed):

Ann Nelson

Address:

1088 Lakewood Dr

City/State/Zip:

OTTAWA IL 61350

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Thank you,

Name (Signature): Sandra McConville

Name (Printed): Sandra McConville

Address: 2106 North Lake

City/State/Zip: Ottawa, ILL 61350

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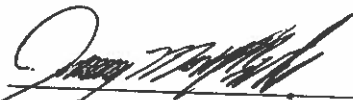
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Thank you,

Name (Signature):



Name (Printed):

Jerry McCorville

Address:

2106 Northlake Dr

City/State/Zip:

Ottawa IL 61350

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Thank you,

Name (Signature):

Kathleen Shea

Name (Printed):

KATHLEEN SHEA

Address:

312 23rd Ave

City/State/Zip:

Naperville, IL 61350

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Thank you,

Name (Signature): Carol Woockel

Name (Printed): Carol Woockel

Address: 420 Park Ave

City/State/Zip: Ottawa, Ill 61350

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Thank you,

Name (Signature): Theodore E. Pumo Jr.

Name (Printed): Theodore E. Pumo Jr.

Address: 2540 Beverly Way

City/State/Zip: Ottawa IL 61350

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Name (Signature): Deborah J Pumo
Name (Printed): Deborah J Pumo
Address: 2540 Beverly Way
City/State/Zip: Ottawa, Ill 61350

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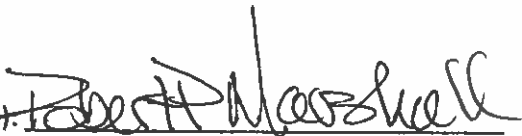
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Thank you,

Name (Signature):



Name (Printed):

Robert P. Marshall

Address:

1247 Tower Dr

City/State/Zip:

Ottawa IL 61350

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Dear Chairwoman Savage;

Please accept my expression of strong opposition to the above-named projects which drastically reduce the scope and general services available to Ottawa the surrounding communities.

The proposal put forth by OSF to eliminate OB and Intensive Care services in Ottawa is irresponsible. For OB in particular patients will either drive to Peru or Morris for care. There will certainly be times in the winter when patients will not be able to get to the hospital. I can foresee deliveries being done in the Emergency Department under less-than-ideal conditions. All patients with serious medical conditions will need to be transported to Peru by ambulance. The numbers clearly do not support the reduction in med surg beds. This certainly puts additional strain on local EMS services to transport patients every day.

The number of both OB and med surg patients in the area will exceed what will be available at the OSF Saint Elizabeth Peru campus.

I believe OSF will lose market because of this. When mothers deliver in another community, they will more than likely go there for pediatric and family care. Patients will have a choice of going east to Morris or north to the Aurora or Naperville area. My sense is that OSF is not concerned about OB care due to current reimbursement rates. Also, lack of services for tubal ligation and vasectomy should be a concern for local communities as OSF a Catholic Health organization monopolizes health care throughout central Illinois.

This will also have an impact on Ottawa and local industry as when they recruit for staff some of the things potential employees what to know is; is there adequate healthcare? Especially younger people will not want to move to a community without OB services. This could also impact local real estate!

Not having an intensive care unit will also limit the types of services that can be performed. If a patient is high for risk for surgery, then the patient will go to Peru or elsewhere.

Making Ottawa a center for mental health services is a concern with limited backup for disruptive patients thereby relying on the local police department. This has been addressed by the local Chief of Police. The volume of MH patients will also increase with all private rooms thereby further straining the police service. Also, as many of these patients need detox prior to transfer to the mental health unit, it further restricts the number of beds for med surg patients.

My personal experience with OSF Saint Elizabeth goes back to 1974 when I joined Community Hospital of Ottawa. Many of us; governing Board, physicians, staff and community in general have put their heart and soul to provide "quality healthcare close to home". Ottawa Regional was promised to be the "Shining Star" for the Illinois Valley. I was Chief Operating Officer during the merger of Ottawa with OSF, so I have firsthand knowledge of the promises that were made by OSF. I believe the Governing Board and administration at that time felt that in

was in the best interests of Ottawa, as there was a long-standing relationship with OSF. Little did we know how this would turn out 12 years later. OSF was basically given the hospital, all surrounding property and a large depreciation fund in exchange for promised enhanced clinical services.

I question the numbers as quoted in the CON applications. The application states that I would cost \$225 million to bring the current facility in Ottawa up to standards, yet there is nothing in the Peru location for upgrades to plant and equipment. Both facilities are approximately the same age.

Please vote against OSF's projects to demolish our hospital in Ottawa and replace it with a smaller facility that eliminates our ICU and OB units, and severely reduces our medical surgical unit to one of the smallest in the state. OSF's plans do not align with the growth in our area – both traditional residential. and also, through planned expansions. OSF's plans also do not align with the promises they made to our community 12 short years ago – and the promises stated in their exemption application to the IHFSRB in 2012.

It is our hope that OSF takes the time to make a better plan for our hospital, one that is right-sized for our community's needs and honors the spirit of the partnership we entered into with their system and our local hospital, one that involves the community in the planning.

It is dismaying to see what OSF plans to provide for the community of Ottawa, we deserve better

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Judy A. Christiansen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Judy" being more prominent and the last name "Christiansen" following in a similar style.

Judy A. Christiansen

Past COO at OSF Saint Elizabeth in Ottawa and Interim President at Mendota Community Hospital.

DATE 10/1/2024

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Thank you

Name (Signature):

Patricia A. Singer

Name (Printed):

PATRICIA A. Singer

Address:

2050 NORTHLAKE DRIVE

City/State:

OTTAWA, IL 61350

P.S. on a personal note - when all hospitals were open in this area, including St. Elizabeth, I was a patient of FVCH and they had me rooms for me. They put me in a wheel chair storage room until one opened. So imagine what it would be like losing Streator, Springfield & now basically Ottawa (with some little services in the future). **DO NOT SHORT CHANGE!** You are not aware to live here and leave you to me.

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Thank you

Name (Signature):

Charles Singer

Name (Printed):

Charles Singer

Address 2050 NORTH LAKE DR

City/State/zip OTTAWA, IL 61350