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Mayor Robert Hasty

City of Ottawa
301 W Madison Street
Ottawa, IL 61350
7/23/2025

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Formal Opposition to Project-25-0313 (OSF Healthcare System – Discontinuation of ICU Services at OSF St. Elizabeth Medical Center – Ottawa Campus)

To the Members of the Board,

On behalf of the residents of the City of Ottawa, I write to formally submit this letter in opposition to Project-25-0313, OSF's proposal to discontinue ICU services at the Ottawa campus of St. Elizabeth Medical Center.

It is with deep concern and growing frustration that I bring to your attention actions by OSF Healthcare that suggest a disregard for the authority and relevance of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board. While Project-25-0313 remains under your consideration, OSF has already begun to operationalize the proposed changes. On July 1, 2025, OSF leadership met with hospital employees and informed them that ICU beds would be converted to Intermediate Care beds effective August 18—well in advance of any decision by this board. Attached to this letter are images of internal OSF communications to employees that confirm these changes have already been formalized.

This is not the first instance of OSF acting ahead of due process. In March of this year, your board granted OSF a third extension on their Certificate of Need related to Med-Surg services, despite it being contrary to standard procedure. OSF had represented that the additional time was necessary to gather data and engage meaningfully with the City of Ottawa and our broader healthcare region. And yet, on that same July 1st, they informed staff of a planned reduction in inpatient capacity to just 18 beds.

Furthermore, when our city provided OSF with specific examples of the growing strain on regional transfers—such as a patient with pneumonia being transported to Mendota due to lack of local bed

availability—we received the following written response from OSF Regional President Dawn Trompeter:

“The reason they were not able to admit to SEMC-Ottawa or SEMC-Peru was not due to available beds, but due to the ability to staff the available beds due to some nurse cancellations that day.”

This response underscores a broader issue: the manufactured reduction of capacity through understaffing, followed by claims of underutilization, which OSF then uses to justify discontinuation of services. Meanwhile, Ottawa’s hospital still sees a daily census of 34 patients—demonstrating an ongoing, unmet need.

It is our position that OSF’s actions represent not just a failure of transparency, but an erosion of public trust and a disregard for the regulatory process. If healthcare providers are permitted to implement structural changes in advance of formal approval, it calls into question the very purpose of this board.

I respectfully urge you to consider the pattern of pre-emptive action, the continued reduction of services critical to our region, and the broader implications for public accountability. I ask that you deny Project-25-0313 and hold OSF to the same standard of compliance and integrity expected of any health system in Illinois.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Robert Hasty
Mayor, City of Ottawa

Family Birth Center

- Full transition to Peru
- Close Family Birth Center in Ottawa
- Transition planning in Progress to admit or transition patients from Ottawa to Peru on Aug
- **OB Provider Coverage:**
 - Need **2 OB providers on call** (one per location).
 - After delivery, midwives can round on patients.
 - **New OB labor start time: 7:00 AM on August 18.**
 - **No elective inductions or C-sections from August 15-18.**

OSF HealthCare

Medical Surgical and Intermediate - Ottawa

- 4th floor
 - Intermediate- 4 Beds (406-409)
 - Medical Surgical- 16 Beds (410-415, 426-435)
 - All Private Rooms (currently undergoing a refresh)
- Patient Populations
 - Medical
 - Telemetry (10 Units)
 - Surgical (General Surgery cases)
 - Pediatrics
- Physician Coverage
 - 1 Hospitalist and APN during the day
 - Nocturnist
 - Tele Infectious Disease, Tele- Pulmonology
 - Consults: Nephrology Cardiology, General Surgery, Urology, GI, Ortho

Charge	RN	PCT	Intermediate RN
1	3	2	1

OSF HealthCare

58

SEMC Ottawa

- Transition Date is Monday August 18th
- Services
 - Intermediate Unit
 - Medical Surgical
 - Surgery (General, GI, Urology)
 - Outpatient Services
 - Diagnostics (xray, CT, MRI, Ultrasound)
 - Emergency Services