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PRESENT:

ILLINOIS HEALTH FACILITIES PLANNING BOARD, by
MR. FRANK W. URSO, Public Hearing Officer;
MR. DALE GALASSIE, Member; and
MS. CATHERINE CLARKE, Administrative Assistant;

535 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, Illinois 62761
217.782.3516

 Appeared on behalf of the Health Facilities
and Services Review Board.

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1 HEARING OFFICER URSO: Good morning,
2 everybody.

3 I think we will get started. It is about
4 11:30.

5 And my name is Frank Urso. I am the general
6 counsel for the Health Facilities and Services
7 Review Board. I will be the hearing officer for
8 today's proceeding. And I am very privileged to
9 have with me today Dale Galassie, former chair of
10 the Board and now he is a board member to my left
11 right here. And then over on that side is Cathy
12 Clarke who is an administrative assistant.

13 And on behalf of the Board, I want to thank
14 you for attending the public hearing for Centegra
15 Hospital Projects 14-03 and 14-04.

16 If you can, please turn off all your devices,
17 the various names which escape me at this point.
18 But if you can please silence those. And I am
19 doing my best to do mine also so as not to be an
20 offender here.

21 Now, Mr. Galassie would like to say a few
22 words.

23 MEMBER GALASSIE: I will do the same so
24 I am not embarrassed.

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1 Good morning, folks. Pleasure to be here.

2 Thank you very much to Woodstock for hosting
3 us. We appreciate that. It is a very attractive
4 and comfortable room.

5 And I have only done a limited amount, but I
6 am told there is some very interesting historical
7 artifacts throughout the building. So if you have
8 a few minutes when we are done, I am going to try
9 myself to go down and enjoy some of them.

10 That having been said, we do have general
11 rules this morning which most of you are aware.
12 Cathy is going to be our timekeeper which is a
13 thankless job.

14 But we do say to you up front, and I
15 certainly do as a hearing officer, we are trying
16 to be respectful of everyone's time. And as a
17 result of that, we designed these guidelines with
18 input from the Attorney General that seem to be
19 reasonable.

20 We want everything to be open and public.
21 This Board is committed to that. We are not
22 trying to limit your access. But somewhere, it
23 has to be a manageable process. So we have kind
24 of evolved to where we have two-minute hearings.

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1 We will give you a little bit of warning. We are
2 not going to slam a mallet. But we will ask you
3 to cease.

4 I would encourage you -- I would -- I
5 typically encourage people to tell a story rather
6 than to read. But it is your right. And we
7 understand if you need a prepared statement, use
8 your prepared statement.

9 If you are, I would spend your time there
10 timing yourself to find out how close you are to
11 two minutes because we really don't want to cut
12 you off. We certainly don't want you not to have
13 made your point. And everybody wants to leave us
14 with that soundbite. So I would encourage you to
15 make sure you get your soundbite in if at all
16 possible.

17 That having been said, for those interested,
18 I will also wish you a happy St. Joseph's day.
19 Other than that, we will go ahead and get started.

20 HEARING OFFICER URSO: As per the rules
21 of the Board, I would like to read the previously
22 published legal notice into the record.

23 Project No. 14-03, Centegra Specialty
24 Hospital -Woodstock, South Street, Woodstock,

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1 14-004, Centegra Hospital -Woodstock, Doty Road,
2 Woodstock.

3 In accordance with the requirements of the
4 Board and the Board's Act, notice is given of
5 receipt to discontinue an acute mental illness AMI
6 category of service at an existing specialty
7 hospital, 14-03, Centegra Specialty
8 Hospital -Woodstock, South Street. And the
9 applicants are Centegra Health System and Memorial
10 Medical Center in Woodstock doing business as
11 Centegra Specialty Hospital -Woodstock.

12 The applicant has proposed to discontinue its
13 36-bed AMI service on the campus of its specialty
14 hospital located at 527 West South Street in
15 Woodstock. The project cost is zero.

16 "Notice is also given of receipt to establish
17 an acute mental illness, AMI category of service,
18 in the existing general hospital, Project 14-04,
19 Centegra Hospital -Woodstock on Doty Road,
20 Woodstock.

21 Applicants are Centegra Health System and
22 Memorial Medical Center-Woodstock doing business
23 as Centegra Hospital -Woodstock.

24 The applicants propose to establish a 34-bed

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1 AMI service on the campus of its general hospital
2 located at 3701 Doty Road.

3 I am pronouncing that correct? Doty Road?
4 (All respond in the affirmative.)

5 HEARING OFFICER URSO: In addition, the
6 Applicants are discontinuing a 14-bed obstetric
7 category of service. The project cost is \$14.3
8 million.

9 A public hearing will take place and is
10 taking place pursuant to Part 1130.910. The
11 hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19,
12 2014, at 11:30 a.m. And sign-in for the hearing
13 will be conducted from 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
14 The hearing will be held at the Woodstock City
15 Council Chambers, 2nd floor. And that is at 121
16 West Calhoun Street, Woodstock, Illinois. 60098
17 is the zip.

18 The public hearing will be conducted by staff
19 of the Board pursuant to the Health Facilities
20 Planning Act. This hearing is open to the public
21 and will afford an opportunity for parties with
22 interest to present written and/or verbal comment
23 relevant to these two projects.

24 All allegations or assertions should be

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1 relevant to the Centegra proposed projects that I
2 just mentioned and be supported with two copies of
3 documentation or materials that are printed or
4 typed on paper, size 11-and-a-half --
5 8-and-a-half -- excuse me -- by 11 inches.

6 Consideration by the State Board for these
7 projects has been tentatively scheduled for the
8 April 22, 2014, State Board meeting.

9 The application and documents related to both
10 of these projects may be accessed at the Board's
11 website which is www.hfsrb.illinois.gov.

12 The deadline for submission of public
13 comments related to these projects is April 2nd,
14 2014.

15 Comments should be sent to Mr. Mike
16 Constantino who is a supervisor in the project
17 review section at the Board's office at 525 West
18 Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor, Springfield,
19 Illinois, 62741-0001.

20 Please note that in order to insure that the
21 Board's public hearing protects the privacy and
22 confidentiality of an individual's health
23 information, covered entities, as defined by the
24 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability

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1 Act of 1996, such as hospital providers, health
2 plans, healthcare clearinghouses, submitting oral
3 or written testimony that disclose protected
4 health information of individuals shall have a
5 valid written authorization from that individual.

6 The authorization shall allow the covered
7 entity to share the individual's protected health
8 information at this hearing if necessary.

9 If you have not signed in, please see Cathy
10 who is over on my left there for the appropriate
11 sign-in sheet.

12 In addition, those of you who came with
13 prepared text of your testimony should note that
14 you can submit the written text and you don't
15 necessarily have to provide oral testimony.

16 All written and oral testimony will be
17 entered into today's record. And it will be made
18 available for all board members prior to the
19 April 22 Board's consideration of these projects.

20 I ask that you please limit your testimony as
21 we previously stated to two minutes. I will call
22 participants in numerical order. Prior to
23 beginning your remarks, please clearly state your
24 name and spell your first and last name for the

1 court reporter.

2 After you have concluded your remarks, if you
3 have written copies of your remarks, please
4 provide those to Cathy along with your completed
5 sign-in sheet. Thank you.

6 Today's proceeding will begin with a
7 representative from Centegra Hospital. Thank you.

8 MEMBER GALASSIE: After introducing
9 yourself, can you just let us know if you are
10 opposing or supporting?

11 DR. SENN: I am Sheila Senn. Sheila,
12 S-h-e-i-l-a. Senn, S-e-n-n. I am here in support
13 of the projects.

14 Good morning. My name is Dr. Sheila Senn.
15 And I am a vice-president at Centegra Health
16 System and the site administrator for both
17 Centegra Hospital -Woodstock on Doty Road and
18 Centegra Specialty Hospital -Woodstock on South
19 Street.

20 My clinical background includes a doctorate
21 in psychology, and I am a licensed professional
22 clinical counselor.

23 During my tenure at Centegra, I have
24 counseled inpatients and outpatients; and I have

1 served as part of the McHenry County Crisis
2 Program team.

3 Today I am delighted to have the opportunity
4 the share details about the ways we plan to
5 enhance Centegra's acute mental illness services
6 for our community.

7 During my 18 years at Centegra, it has been
8 my calling to care for patients who struggle with
9 mental illness. Now, it is my honor to represent
10 the associates and physicians at Centegra who
11 passionately serve these community members and who
12 work every day to remove the stigma associated
13 with mental illness.

14 Through the years, we have watched many other
15 health systems discontinue their acute mental
16 health services. Today, we come here to share the
17 changes we propose to make in our delivery of
18 these same services at Centegra.

19 The irony of today's public hearing doesn't
20 escape our Centegra family. Although Mercy Health
21 System requested today's hearing, it provides
22 neither inpatient acute mental illness services
23 nor inpatient obstetrics care in the planning area
24 or anywhere in the state of Illinois.

1 Centegra understands the unique needs of
2 people with mental illness. We provide
3 outstanding clinical services and help patients
4 maintain dignity when they are in crisis.

5 These projects will help Centegra enhance the
6 care we provide these vulnerable patients by
7 relocating our inpatient acute mental illness
8 service from Centegra Specialty Hospital -Woodstock
9 to Centegra Hospital -Woodstock on Doty Road.
10 These two hospitals are within the same
11 municipality and the same planning area and serve
12 the same market.

13 Centegra Specialty Hospital on South Street
14 is 100 years old this year. While the facility
15 holds a lot of history in our community, our
16 inpatient mental illness unit would be better
17 served in the modern facility on Doty Road.

18 MS. CLARKE: Two minutes.

19 DR. SENN: Two minutes left?

20 (Laughter.)

21 DR. SENN: Everyone kept telling me I
22 was going too fast.

23 "By relocating our current inpatient mental
24 health unit to the hospital on Doty Road, we would

1 also provide these patients immediate access to
2 the acute medical care services that are available
3 at that location. This means that patients who
4 require medical services in addition to mental
5 health services would have access to care in the
6 same building.

7 In fiscal year 2013, 22 patients were unable
8 to be admitted to our specialty hospital because
9 they needed acute medical care in addition to
10 mental health services.

11 In addition, we were not able to admit more
12 than 250 patients due to lack of available beds at
13 our South Street facility.

14 In spite of the challenges of our current
15 facility, our acute mental illness unit was named
16 a Guardian of Excellence Award winner in 2013 by
17 Press Ganey, which recognizes top-performing
18 facilities that consistently achieved the 95th
19 percentile in our patients' perception of their
20 care. Fewer than 5 percent of all Press Ganey
21 clients reach this threshold and consistently
22 maintain it for the one-year reporting period.
23 This award is especially meaningful because it
24 shows that our patients recognized our ability to

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1 provide exceptional care in a compassionate way.

2 HEARING OFFICER URSO: Wrap up.

3 DR. SENN: Yes.

4 Our health system carefully considered our
5 options for the relocation of our acute mental
6 illness services to the Doty Road hospital and
7 made the prudent decision to create
8 appropriately-sized and configured space by
9 consolidating our obstetric services at Centegra
10 Hospital -McHenry, thus permitting the construction
11 of the relocated acute mental illness unit in the
12 vacated space on our Doty Road campus.

13 Today you will hear from other colleagues of
14 mine who will share with you the support we have
15 from other organizations in the community and also
16 improve our obstetric services that we provide.

17 MEMBER GALASSIE: Thank you, Doctor.

18 DR. SENN: Thank you.

19 HEARING OFFICER URSO: Number one?

20 MS. CLARKE: That was one.

21 HEARING OFFICER URSO: Number two.

22 MEMBER GALASSIE: Good morning.

23 DR. LEGURSKY: My name is Clare

24 Legursky. C-l-a-r-e. L-e-g-u-r-s-k-y.

1 I am a board certified family practitioner
2 and the president of the medical staff at Centegra
3 Hospital -Woodstock. And as a medical staff
4 president there and one who has been in practice
5 in this county for 26 years, I am proud to support
6 these projects. I believe that they will improve
7 the care that Centegra provides throughout the
8 county.

9 Women who need obstetrics care and their
10 babies will have access to enhanced care in the
11 consolidated unit. People who need mental illness
12 treatment will have access to additional acute
13 inpatient care facilities at Centegra
14 Hospital -Woodstock which they currently don't
15 have.

16 Centegra Hospital -Woodstock is a hospital
17 that thrives on the pursuit of clinical
18 excellence. And my physician colleagues and I are
19 proud to lead medical teams who aim to continually
20 improve patient safety and satisfaction.

21 Our labor and delivery unit has consistently
22 delivered outstanding clinical outcomes. And
23 patients express their gratitude for the
24 high-quality and passionate care they receive.

1 And if the Illinois Health Facilities
2 Services and Review Board supports the
3 consolidation of our obstetrics unit at Centegra
4 Hospital -McHenry, these outstanding teams will
5 combine to create a sought-after environment for
6 women and their babies in this county where they
7 will receive excellent care.

8 As a physician whose patients have benefited
9 from hospitalist care, I also support Centegra as
10 it considers enhancing the physician care that
11 will be provided on the obstetrics unit at the
12 Centegra Hospital facility in McHenry.

13 The consolidation of this unit allows them to
14 consider state-of-the-art, in-house neonatology
15 care, as well as around-the-clock obstetric
16 hospitalist care.

17 MS. CLARKE: Two minutes.

18 DR. LEGURSKY: Both of these services
19 would elevate the safety of our family birth
20 center for mothers and their babies.

21 The proposed relocation of Centegra's acute
22 mental illness unit within Woodstock will also
23 benefit those people who are receiving inpatient
24 care because they will have increased access to

1 acute medical care in the same building if they
2 are needed.

3 I believe this relocation is in the best
4 interest of all of the affected patients. So I
5 fully support the proposition to consolidate OB
6 and move the acute mental health illness to
7 Woodstock.

8 Thank you.

9 MEMBER GALASSIE: Thank you, Doctor.

10 HEARING OFFICER URSO: Number 3.

11 MR. HEINRICH: Good morning. My name is
12 John Heinrich. J-o-h-n. H-e-i-n-r-i-c-h. I am
13 reading for Dr. Alissa Erogbogbo. A-l-i-s-s-a.
14 Last name is E-r-o-g-b-o-g-b-o.

15 I am reading for Dr. Alissa Erogbogbo who is
16 a board certified obstetrician/gynecologist who
17 serves as medical director of obstetrics and
18 gynecology at Centegra Physician Care.

19 The approval of these projects by the Health
20 Facilities and Services Review Board will help
21 Centegra Health System's physicians and associates
22 enhance the way we provide obstetrics and
23 gynecological care to the people of greater
24 McHenry County.

1 We propose to accomplish this by
2 consolidating the outpatient obstetric services at
3 Centegra Hospital -Woodstock and Centegra
4 Hospital -McHenry. Both hospitals are located in
5 the same planning area and serve the same market
6 area.

7 As we considered how to consolidate
8 Centegra's inpatient obstetric units, a priority
9 was to maintain our obstetrics patients' ability
10 to have close-to-home access to services and
11 support including laboratory, medical imaging, and
12 childbirth education classes, which will continue
13 to be hosted at both Centegra Hospital -Woodstock
14 and Centegra Hospital -McHenry.

15 The Centegra Breastfeeding Resource Center
16 which welcomes all mothers and babies regardless
17 of where the mother chooses to birth their child,
18 will remain at Centegra Hospital -Woodstock and a
19 new center will be created at Centegra
20 Hospital -McHenry.

21 In addition to continuing to offer these
22 outpatient obstetric services in Woodstock,
23 Centegra Physician Care
24 obstetrician/gynecologist's, OB/Gyn, offices will

1 continue to see patients in the medical office
2 buildings adjacent to Centegra Hospital -Woodstock,
3 in Huntley, Crystal Lake, and McHenry.

4 To add more perspective, in calendar 2013,
5 Centegra Physician Care's OB/Gyns had about 12,500
6 visits. If the Board approves the Certificate of
7 Need projects we are discussing today, all of
8 these outpatients will still receive care in the
9 same locations.

10 We are simply seeking your approval to
11 consolidate our existing inpatient hospital
12 obstetrics unit patients at Centegra
13 Hospital -McHenry.

14 MS. CLARKE: Two minutes.

15 MR. HEINRICH: Centegra also believes
16 women with IPA services deserve the same
17 close-to-home access to Centegra obstetric
18 services and programs that our other obstetrics
19 and gyne patients do.

20 Centegra Physician Care OB/Gyns will continue
21 to see IPA patients at all Centegra Physician Care
22 sites, including Woodstock, so women do not have
23 to travel far for doctor appointments or to those
24 services mentioned above.

1 As Centegra consolidates its labor and
2 delivery services at Centegra Hospital -McHenry,
3 our team continues to keep women throughout the
4 region in mind.

5 MEMBER GALASSIE: Thank you.

6 HEARING OFFICER: Number 4.

7 MS. CLARKE: Sir --

8 DR. BERKOWITZ: Sorry.

9 Good morning. My name is Paul Berkowitz.
10 Paul, P-a-u-l. Berkowitz, B-e-r-k-o-w-i-t-z.

11 I am the director of behavioral health
12 services for Centegra Health System.

13 In this role, I oversee all of Centegra's
14 behavioral health services including inpatient
15 psychiatry, the McHenry County crisis line,
16 outpatient services, hospital psychiatric
17 consultation liaison services in psychology for
18 Centegra Physician Care.

19 I would like to urge the Illinois Health
20 Facilities and Service Review Board to approve
21 Projects 14-03 and 14-04. These projects will
22 allow Centegra Health System to enhance behavioral
23 health services in the community by relocating the
24 only acute mental service in McHenry County, which

1 is Planning Area 8-A-10 from its current location
2 in the 100-year-old Centegra Specialty
3 Hospital -Woodstock to Centegra Hospital -Woodstock.

4 This relocation will provide contemporary
5 facilities for patients who require inpatient
6 mental health care and their families. It will
7 provide improved access to acute medical services
8 for acute mental illness patients who require this
9 care.

10 The relocated acute mental illness unit will
11 have the number of authorized beds that exactly
12 matches the acute mental illness bed need
13 identified by the Illinois Health Facilities and
14 Services Review Board for our planning area.

15 As a psychiatrist who is board certified in
16 general psychiatry and psychosomatic medicine, I
17 fully endorse Centegra Health System's dedication
18 to the patients who receive mental health
19 treatment through its behavioral health services.

20 I provide psychiatric clinical consultations
21 to non-psychiatric inpatients at both Centegra
22 Hospital -McHenry and Centegra Hospital -Woodstock
23 and consult with other physicians to address the
24 psychiatric needs of their non-psychiatric

1 inpatients.

2 The majority of my inpatients receive care
3 from conditions that include bipolar disorder,
4 bipolar depression, recurrent mood disorders,
5 episodic mood disorders, major depression,
6 chemical dependency issues, schizophrenia and
7 schizoaffective disorder. I also provide
8 outpatient psychiatric care in Centegra's partial
9 hospital program --

10 MS. CLARKE: Two minutes.

11 DR. BERKOWITZ: -- and the intensive
12 outpatient program at Centegra Specialty
13 Hospital -Woodstock.

14 Your approval of the relocation of our
15 inpatient acute mental illness beds just a few
16 miles within Woodstock would enhance the care we
17 provide and the environment in which our patients
18 receive services.

19 Thank you for your consideration.

20 MEMBER GALASSIE: Thank you.

21 HEARING OFFICER URSO: No. 5, please.

22 MS. CLOSE: Good morning. My name is
23 Heidi Close. H-e-i-d-i. C-l-o-s-e.

24 And I am speaking today in support of the

1 projects, 14-03 and 14-04.

2 I am the director of women's services with
3 Centegra Health System and also a registered nurse
4 with a master's degree in nursing and board
5 certified as a nursing executive.

6 I am speaking in support of the project to
7 discontinue the hospital in Woodstock's obstetric
8 category of service and relocate the inpatient
9 acute mental illness unit from Woodstock on South
10 Street to the Doty Road campus and also to
11 consolidate our two existing obstetrics units to
12 Centegra Hospital -McHenry.

13 This makes sense from a staffing standpoint
14 and it reflects Centegra's mindfulness with regard
15 to financial resources.

16 We will focus our energy and finances on
17 creating an outstanding family birth center at
18 Centegra Hospital -McHenry that is a destination of
19 choice for labor, delivery, and postpartum care.

20 As a nurse leader, it is important for me to
21 note that Centegra Health System was recently
22 recognized as the second health system in the
23 state of Illinois to achieve Magnet status. It is
24 the highest honor an organization can receive for

1 quality patient care and professional nursing
2 practice. Only 400 hospitals in the world have
3 achieved this status.

4 To achieve this advanced designation, all
5 three of Centegra hospitals demonstrated their
6 commitment to patient care.

7 The culture that led to receive Magnet
8 designation also drives us to do more for the
9 community. The proposed obstetrics consolidation
10 will allow us to consider adding obstetric
11 programs and staff that will enhance patient care
12 and patient satisfaction. These include
13 around-the-clock neonatology services and
14 hospitalists who specialize in OB care.

15 Our patients are always in mind as we
16 consider our options. We considered the first
17 option which was to relocate the mental illness
18 unit to the hospital in Woodstock. That
19 alternative was rejected because there is not
20 enough space to accommodate both obstetrics and
21 the acute mental health service within the current
22 Woodstock facility.

23 The second alternative was to construct a new
24 acute mental illness unit at either hospital,

1 Woodstock or McHenry. This option came with a
2 hefty price tag that could not be justified
3 because we had better alternatives for
4 consolidating our inpatient obstetrics.

5 I urge the Health Facilities and Services
6 Review Board to support these applications.

7 And I thank you for your time.

8 MEMBER GALASSIE: Thank you.

9 HEARING OFFICER URSO: Number 6.

10 MEMBER GALASSIE: Can I just clarify
11 that those rejections were internal, not from this
12 Board.

13 MS. DEMODICA: My name is Tamara
14 DeModica. That is T-a-m-a-r-a. Last name,
15 D-e-M-o-d-i-c-a. And I guarantee not to go over
16 two minutes.

17 MEMBER GALASSIE: Thank you.

18 MS. DEMODICA: Well, here we are again,
19 another hearing regarding Centegra and all of
20 their changes to our healthcare system as our only
21 option of hospital medical care in our area.

22 I came here to express my opinion, once
23 again, about our access to healthcare and our
24 ability to have options with healthcare providers.

1 All I see are more options for Centegra's
2 future benefit.

3 MEMBER GALASSIE: Ma'am, can I just ask
4 are you going to be talking specifically about the
5 projects that are --

6 MS. DEMODICA: Yes --

7 HEARING OFFICER URSO: Thank you.

8 MS. DEMODICA: -- without actually
9 naming what the numbers are.

10 While I am not opposed to what Centegra is
11 proposing with their inpatient mental health
12 services, I do oppose their continuous plans that
13 only benefit Centegra and not the people who live
14 here in our county.

15 I do -- I don't know what else to say except
16 that Crystal Lake, Cary, Lake in the Hills, and
17 Algonquin continue to have a large void of
18 hospital medical care. Obstetrics will be limited
19 with Centegra's proposal as their Woodstock site
20 is abandoned.

21 In the end, women will have to travel farther
22 to have their babies.

23 Isn't it all supposed to be easier for the
24 people, when all this does is makes things harder?

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1 MEMBER GALASSIE: Thank you.

2 HEARING OFFICER URSO: We are on
3 number 7?

4 MS. CLARKE: Yes.

5 MR. COLBY: Good morning. My name is
6 Dan Colby. D-a-n. C-o-l-b-y. I live in Harvard,
7 Illinois. And I am here to talk about the project
8 as opposed to it.

9 Just a couple of years ago, Centegra
10 petitioned this Board to build a hospital in
11 Huntley. And with that project came a 10-bed OB
12 unit that was approved. That was after the third
13 time in front of the Board.

14 Now, just a couple years later, they are
15 asking to close the Woodstock OB unit and close 14
16 beds and shift them up to McHenry. And the
17 question is, that the Board should consider very
18 closely, why would you accept that you need 10
19 beds in Huntley for a new hospital and now turn
20 around and close 14 OB beds in Woodstock and shift
21 the patients up to McHenry?

22 Again, it is -- I don't know how much of a
23 problem it is for how many of those patients
24 involved. But the point is that they have to go

1 from a Woodstock service to a McHenry service.

2 I think the Board was duped by Centegra when
3 it approved the project for 10 new beds in
4 Huntley. I don't want the Board duped again.

5 MEMBER GALASSIE: Thank you.

6 HEARING OFFICER URSO: Thank you.

7 I think we are on number 8.

8 MS. CLARKE: Yeah.

9 MR. GRUBER: Richard Gruber.

10 R-i-c-h-a-r-d. Last name, G-r-u-b-e-r.

11 I am a vice-president with Mercy Health
12 System Cooperation. And I am here to speak
13 concerning the proposals in front of the Board at
14 their April meeting that involved the closure of
15 the acute mental illness beds at the South Street
16 location and opening those beds at the location on
17 Doty and the moving of the obstetrics unit
18 inpatient to McHenry.

19 I wish to commend Centegra, quite honestly,
20 for their continuing support of inpatient mental
21 healthcare here in McHenry County.

22 At the same time, I want to express my
23 concerns regarding their proposal to discontinue
24 obstetrics altogether at the Woodstock Memorial

1 facility.

2 In 2008, Centegra proposed to your Board that
3 ultimately approved a women's pavilion project at
4 Woodstock. Centegra went from submitting a \$52
5 million certificate of need application to build
6 that pavilion and to now abandon those services
7 totally.

8 That raises questions in my mind. That
9 raises concerns about the availability of
10 obstetric services across McHenry County.

11 I am concerned that individuals who now are
12 able to travel in a safe, efficient fashion to be
13 provided the inpatient obstetric care in Woodstock
14 now have to travel over congested roadways a much
15 greater distance, putting themselves and their
16 child at risk, in order to access services that
17 are currently available and now Centegra is
18 wishing to discontinue.

19 If you look at the bigger picture of
20 healthcare within the area A-10 planning, I have
21 to follow up on the words of one of the previous
22 speakers. We have a large population within the
23 greater Crystal Lake area, 160,000 persons, who
24 are frankly disenfranchised by lack of available

1 inpatient hospital healthcare services.

2 I would hope that there would be a creative
3 proposal brought forward to this Board in the
4 future that would address that population, as
5 well.

6 MS. CLARKE: Two minutes.

7 MR. GRUBER: And take the time to get
8 the answers to the question of why at one point in
9 time we proposed a women's pavilion for \$52
10 million and the expansion of services to Woodstock
11 and now we are abandoning that same consideration.

12 MEMBER GALASSIE: Thank you.

13 HEARING OFFICER URSO: I think we are on
14 number 9.

15 MS. SHAPIRO: Good afternoon, my name is
16 Bernadette Szczepanski. B-e-r-n-a-d-e-t-t-e.
17 Last name is S-z-c-z-e-p-a-n-s-k-i.

18 I am submitting my written testimony.

19 MEMBER GALASSIE: Thank you.

20 HEARING OFFICER URSO: Number 10,
21 please.

22 MS. MCBRIDE-SPENCER: My name is Despina
23 McBride-Spencer. D-e-s-p-i-n-a. M-c-B-r-i-d-e.
24 S-p-e-n-c-e-r. And I am submitting my written

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1 testimony.

2 MEMBER GALASSIE: In opposition or
3 support?

4 MS. MCBRIDE-SPENCER: Support.

5 HEARING OFFICER URSO: Number 11.
6 Moving right along.

7 MR. KEENAN: Joseph Keenan.
8 J-o-s-e-p-h. K-e-e-n-a-n. I am submitting in
9 support in writing.

10 MEMBER GALASSIE: Thank you.

11 HEARING OFFICER URSO: Number 12.

12 DR. STANDISH: I am Dr. Rebecca
13 Standish. R-e-b-e-c-c-a. S-t-a-n-d-i-s-h. I am
14 submitting my testimony in support.

15 MEMBER GALASSIE: Thank you very much.

16 HEARING OFFICER URSO: Thank you.
17 Number 13, please.

18 MS. SULLIVAN: Lori Sullivan. L-o-r-i.
19 S-u-l-l-i-v-a-n. I am submitting my testimony
20 written, in favor.

21 MEMBER GALASSIE: Thank you.

22 HEARING OFFICER URSO: Number 14.

23 MS. SCHMIDT: Good morning. Catie
24 Schmidt. C-a-t-i-e. S-c-h-m-i-d-t.

1 I am submitting in favor on behalf of
2 Dr. Irfan Haviz. I-r-f-a-n. H-a-f-i-z.

3 MEMBER GALASSIE: In support?

4 MS. SCHMIDT: Yes.

5 HEARING OFFICER URSO: Thank you.

6 Number 15, please.

7 MS. STOUT: Joan Stout. J-o-a-n.

8 S-t-o-u-t. Submitting written support.

9 MEMBER GALASSIE: Thank you.

10 MS. CLARKE: Thank you.

11 HEARING OFFICER URSO: 16, please.

12 MS. MUSICH: Hi. My name is Trisha

13 Musich. T-r-i-s-h-a. And the last name is

14 M-u-s-i-c-h. I am submitting my written testimony

15 for support.

16 MEMBER GALASSIE: Thank you.

17 HEARING OFFICER URSO: Now moving along

18 to number 18.

19 MS. CLARKE: 17.

20 HEARING OFFICER URSO: 17. Moving along

21 too quickly.

22 (Laughter.)

23 DR. KUMAR: Hi. My name is Kumar

24 Nathan. K-u-m-a-r. Last name, N-a-t-h-a-n. I am

1 submitting testimony in support of.

2 MEMBER GALASSIE: Thank you.

3 HEARING OFFICER URSO: Now, it is
4 number 18.

5 MS. CLARKE: 18. Thank you.

6 DR. BERNARDI: My name is Pasquale
7 Bernardi. P-a-s-q-u-a-l-e. B-e-r-n-a-r-d-i. I
8 am submitting written testimony in support.

9 MEMBER GALASSIE: Thank you.

10 HEARING OFFICER URSO: Now, we can go to
11 number 19.

12 DR. SHEPLEY: Good morning. My name --
13 well, now afternoon. My name is Aaron Shepley. I
14 am the senior vice-president with Centegra Health
15 System. I also happen to be the last speaker of
16 the day, I believe. 19 is your last number.

17 I do want -- and by the way, I am here in
18 strong support of the project.

19 And I do want to note for the record that we
20 have been at a lot of public hearings. This is
21 the first one that I have heard someone from Mercy
22 say they commend us for anything. So I want to
23 thank Mr. Gruber for the compliment.

24 And in point of fact, we are very proud of

1 the behavioral health services that we have
2 provided for years for the people of this
3 community and continue to provide and will
4 continue to do so into the future, even though for
5 a lot of health systems it is not a practical
6 thing to do. We are doing this because it is
7 important for our community and it is an important
8 part of who we are as a health system.

9 That is why we are very proud of this
10 project. This is a project that is going to
11 enhance significantly the level of service that we
12 are able to provide to our behavioral health
13 patients. It is going to improve the efficiency
14 from an OB standpoint the services that we
15 provide.

16 And in response to one of the comments that
17 was made, I think it is important to recognize
18 that we are not discontinuing providing a service
19 to our community. We are merely reallocating
20 where within the planning area we are providing
21 those services. And we are doing that in the
22 interest of all of the things that we have going
23 on around us from the Affordable Care Act and
24 requirements for increased efficiency as the

1 healthcare resources that have been so scarce
2 already continue to become more scarce.

3 So, yes. We have a good project. It is good
4 for the community. It is good for OB patients.
5 It is good for behavioral health patients. It is
6 consistent with the Affordable Healthcare Act and
7 with the efficiencies that we are required to
8 operate under.

9 It is supported by the medical staff
10 president, the senior administrative officers from
11 Centegra, and the leader of the behavioral health
12 services that are going to reap the benefits that
13 will help the community, as well.

14 So yeah. We are proud of this. And thank
15 you, Mr. Gruber, for your accommodation.

16 Thank you.

17 MEMBER GALASSIE: Thank you.

18 HEARING OFFICER URSO: Thank you.

19 In spite of the comment of him being the last
20 speaker, I want to just make sure that everybody
21 had an opportunity to speak. And if there is
22 anybody else who wishes to provide any additional
23 testimony, you need to let us know now.

24 If not, we will move forward, then.

1 Please, note that this project, as I said
2 previously, is tentatively scheduled for
3 consideration by the Board on the April 22nd Board
4 Meeting.

5 This meeting is scheduled to be held in
6 Chicago, Illinois, at the Holiday Inn-Chicago Mart
7 Plaza-River North, located at 350 West Mart Center
8 Drive.

9 Please, refer to the Board's website that I
10 mentioned previously for more details and possible
11 agenda changes.

12 The public has until 9:00 a.m. on April 2nd
13 to submit signed written comments pertaining to
14 this project. Comments should be sent to the
15 attention of Courtney Avery who is the Board
16 Administrator at the same address as I mentioned
17 previously.

18 The State Board will post its findings in the
19 State Board Staff Report. This report will be
20 made available on the Board's website 14 days
21 prior to that meeting or on Wednesday, April 8th.

22 The public may submit written responses to
23 the findings of the Board staff to the Board. And
24 the public has until 9:00 a.m. on Monday, April

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1 14th to submit written responses specifically to
2 the content of the Board Staff Report.

3 The Board Staff Report plus other information
4 are available on the Board's website. Responses
5 should also be sent to Ms. Avery's attention.

6 Are there any questions in that regard?

7 If there are no additional questions or
8 comments, then I deem this public hearing
9 adjourned. And I want to thank everybody's
10 participation in today's proceedings.

11 Thank you very much.

12 PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED AT 12:09 P.M.

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