200 S. WYMAN, SUITE 301
ROCKFORD, IL 61101
PHONE: 815-987-7557
FAX: 815-987-7529

121B STATE CAPITOL
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62706
PHONE: 217-782-8022
WEBSITE: www.SenatorStadelman.com

ILLINOIS STATE SENATE
STEVE STADELMAN
STATE SENATOR · 34TH DISTRICT

September 3, 2020

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Board Members,

It seems odd to ask this Board to deny Mercy's request to close its behavioral health unit, when the health system has effectively done so already. Still, that's precisely my request.

Mercy has stated publicly the reason for the closure is the unit's only full-time psychiatrist left the company July 19. How much advance notice did Mercy receive? Did Mercy try to find a replacement? Or did Mercy just conveniently wait until the end of the 30-day time period before its requirement of notifying the Board of this so-called "temporary" closure. Under the rules, Mercy is supposed to update the Board on the progress for correcting the issue. Clearly, Mercy had no intention of following the rules and keeping the unit open before this Board made its decision. I believe Mercy should be held accountable for its actions.

As to the larger issue of whether these inpatient beds are needed in this community, I've always heard from experts and advocates we need more inpatient services, not less. Mercy claims low demand for those beds. But why is that? This claim needs to be probed further. Advocates believe Mercy's refusal to accept the types of insurance most mental health consumers use is one reason why the hospital system reports lower patient numbers. It's a self-fulfilling prophecy. In fact, in today's Rockford Register Star, SwedishAmerican's Chief Operating Officer told the newspaper the closure of the behavioral health unit is placing pressure on remaining mental health resources in Rockford, and patients are being forced to seek help outside the area. By granting Mercy's petition, this Board will allow Mercy's leadership to abandon the very situation they're responsible for creating.

Finally, five years ago, Mercy appeared before this Board requesting to build a new hospital on Riverside Boulevard. Its slogan was "one hospital, two campuses." Mercy's President and CEO promised then that the Rockton Avenue facility located in the disadvantaged part of town would not lose anything. But the disadvantaged part of town has lost, including level two trauma emergency services and now the behavioral health unit. This year, Mercy will receive millions of dollars more under the state's new hospital assessment program for Medicaid funding and an additional $2 million from this year's state budget to help safety-net hospitals.

The state has increased its commitment; now it's incumbent upon Mercy to keep its promise to provide quality health care across ALL our community.

Sincerely,

Steve Stadelman

Steve Stadelman
Illinois State Senator, 34th District

SOYBEAN INKS

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT OFFICE:
E. J. "ZEKE" GIORGI CENTER
200 S. WYMAN
SUITE 304
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61101
(815) 987-7433

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:
237-E STRATTON BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
(217) 782-3167
EMAIL: MAURICE@STATEREPWEST.COM

MAURICE A. WEST II
STATE REPRESENTATIVE · 67TH DISTRICT

September 3, 2020

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson Street
Springfield, IL 62761

RE: E-032-20 – Javon Bea Hospital-Rockton Avenue, Rockford

Dear Review Board members,

On March 17th of this year, 67% of Rockford voters understood how important mental health services are for our community, their loved ones, for themselves and voted to raise their taxes to fund it. That same day, the state of Illinois announced it's very first death from COVID-19. I'm pretty sure no one suspected that today we will be witness to that total being over 8,000 deaths in Illinois; 147 of those deaths coming from Winnebago County. Alongside those numbers came the shutdown of our schools and businesses that resulted to job loss in the millions just in Illinois.

Then you add the public killing of George Floyd, the civil unrest that followed all while the way one worships being drastically different – mental health services are needed now more than ever. Mental health services will be needed even after 2020 has come and gone due to the residual effects of our current situations. One's mental health is just as important as their physical health, in most cases, even more important.

And that has been the case even before this pandemic happened. Statistically speaking, 1 out of 5 people knows someone dealing with a mental illness – so it's safe to say that we all know too well of the individual with the most beautiful of smiles suffering from depression – or the person who appears to have it all together during the day but pondering suicidal thoughts at night.

It's bad enough that our Medicaid patients will have to switch providers or hospitals, it's bad enough that services are leaving the west side to appease Mercyhealth's bottom dollar. Our community cannot afford for mental health to be on the chopping block at Javon Bea Hospital. You will be a huge help to a great many of people by rejecting this application.

With kind regards to you and the constituents and patients we serve, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Maurice A. West II
State Representative | 67th District

SOYBEAN INKS

Continued Services- Deb Potempa, System CNO

Good afternoon, my name is Deb Potempa and I am a Vice President and the System Chief Nursing Officer for Mercyhealth. Thank you for this time.
I have been working for our system for the past 10 years, and had the privilege of coming to Rockford to support the Javon Bea Hospitals this past year.

In the outpatient setting
As Dr. Dorsey just stated, with the advent of new medications to treat depression, Bi-polar disorders, and other psychiatric illnesses, more patients are able to be appropriately stabilized on medications in an outpatient setting.

Our Primary care doctors routinely screen and engage in treatment and evaluation of their patient's psychiatric needs, and monitor the effectiveness of this treatment if their patient is placed on one of the many medications that may effectively treat their illness.

We are utilizing telehealth technology.
We have seen many benefits in the use of telehealth with the behavioral health population especially during the COVID Pandemic.

- It offers the ability to treat patients outside of the hospital and this provides increased access to care.
- Patients can receive behavioral and mental health services through telehealth in their in primary

care settings. For example, patients can use live-video teleconferencing to receive counseling from a remote psychologist or mental health counselor

- We can use telehealth technology to observe the patient in the Emergency Department or on an inpatient unit and to perform assessments, and screenings; and diagnose conditions.
- We can provide counseling and psychotherapy, which can be delivered to individuals, couples, or groups.
- Telehealth allows us to help patients adhere to their medication regimens and can help to facilitate coordination with family members, or social services agencies, to meet the identified needs of patients.

- The Glenwood Clinic continues to provide a full time psychiatrist, Dr. Irfan, and offers general psychiatric services and medical management to children, adolescents, and adults. Dr. Irfan also is a part of the psychiatric on-call team supporting the Rockton and Riverside Emergency Departments and inpatient units.

In our Illinois hospitals:

- Our Licensed Clinical Social Workers, and certified Social Workers who worked on the inpatient unit on the Rockton campus will transition to full time psychiatric assessors.

- They will provide support to the emergency departments and the inpatient units on the Rockton and Riverside campus.
- This will be a combination of on-site support and telehealth support.
- They will also work closely with the Case Management nursing team to identify appropriate discharge planning as they currently do today.

- As part of our regional approach, we will begin to share resources from the Wisconsin Behavioral Health program into a larger psychiatric assessment team to serve the Mercyhealth System. The main "hubs" for this program will be the Rockton Avenue campus and the Janesville Campus . Assessors will provide telehealth service to Rockton, Riverside, Harvard, Walworth and Janesville campuses.
- When a patient requires an inpatient admission for behavioral health treatment, we will continue to work with Rosecrance as a referral source as we did in the past.
- We are also continuing to explore opportunities within Community ~~Swedish American Hospital for Behavioral Health in the Rockford Community~~ as Dr. Dorsey mentioned previously.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Javon Bea Hospital - Rockton Avenue, Rockford

Project Number: E-032-20

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Mike O'Toole

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

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)

_____

_____

_____

_____

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position)*

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle)*

Oral Written

9/3/20

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Javon Bea Hospital - Rockton Avenue, Rockford

Project Number: E-032-20

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Tim Coe

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

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)

_____

_____

_____

_____

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Javon Bea Hospital - Rockton Avenue, Rockford

Project Number: E-032-20

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Amanda M. Sim
City Rockford State Illinois Zip 61101

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) American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/3/20

Sink

Dear Health Facilities and Services Review Board,

Mercyhealth's rapid decision to close their behavioral health inpatient unit does not appear to follow state guidelines and needs to be held accountable for their actions. Mercyhealth's mission to "make lives better" is not a true reflection of the organization when they put profits over people.

A non-profit organization that receives additional incentives from the government and buys out one of the largest hospital chains in our region without pause on how they treat the community they are supposed to serve is **not** a hospital committing to their values. As a nonprofit, under no circumstances should money be the driving factor for Mercyhealth.

A loss of inpatient beds impacts an already strapped mental health system. While there are closer facilities than the heart of Chicago that many patients do choose for care because of quality and specialization over proximity, it is OUR responsibility to ensure access and support for mental health care for residents in Rockford. This is essential through both inpatient and outpatient treatment.

Mental health is just as important as physical health, and if Mercyhealth truly believes in caring for the community, they will not close or be allowed to close this inpatient facility. One in five Americans has a diagnosable mental health disorder, and even if we are not the ones directly impacted, it will be our friends, our family, our neighbors. The individuals living with mental health conditions **DESERVE** and have the right to receive these services.

We know the impacts of mental illness and a lack of treatment; we have seen this since Singer closed. Do we really want to push this down even further and escalate the issue?

If money is what is most important here, above our community's health, then consider the national ~~the~~ cost of untreated mental illness, which costs about $100 BILLION dollars a year in lost productivity. The worsening of conditions can lead to lack of job stability, prison, physical health issues, and suicide.

Mercyhealth has failed the Rockford region by showing us their true priorities. We the people **DEMAND** they be held accountable for their actions as we stand up for every individual's right to mental health treatment.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Javon Bea Hospital - Rockton Avenue, Rockford

Project Number: E-032-20

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (*Please Print*) Dyanna Rose Walker

City ROCKFORD State ILLINOIS Zip 61104-8350

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)

Concerned Citizens for Health Care

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/3/20

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Javon Bea Hospital - Rockton Avenue, Rockford

Project Number: E-032-20

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (*Please Print*) Thomas P. McNamara

City Rockford State IL Zip 61104

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)

City of Rockford

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/3/20

Thomas P. McNamara
Mayor
Office of the Mayor

September 3, 2020

Via hand delivery
Public Hearing E-032-20 Javon Bea Hospital – Rockton Campus

Illinois Health Facilities Services and Review Board Members,
Thank you for allowing me to speak today. My name is Tom McNamara, and I've had the honor of serving as Mayor of Rockford since May 2017.

I come before you to urge you to **reject the request by Mercyhealth System to close its inpatient mental health unit located on its North Rockton Ave. campus.**

The need for mental health services in Rockford is absolutely critical and reaches across our community. Every day, we see first-hand what a lack of mental health care does to our schools, our businesses and our neighborhoods. No one is untouched by the challenges of mental illness.

Doing nothing will not make the problem go away and the statistics tell the story. Mental illness is on a frightening rise in the US, according to Mental Health America (MHA), one of our country's oldest mental health advocacy organizations and the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI):

- 1 in 5 US adults experience mental illness each year, while only 43 percent receive treatment.
- More than 10.3 million adults had serious thoughts of suicide in 2017, while the rate of young people 12-17 with a Major Depressive Episode rose from 8.6 percent in 2012 to 13 percent in 2017.
- Depression and anxiety disorders cost the US economy $1 TRILLION each year.
- 1 in 8 of all visits to an Emergency Department are related to mental illness and/or substance use disorders.
- If just 1 percent of those with Acute Mental Illness needed hospitalization at any given time, we would not have capacity to treat them.
- From August 2019 to August 2020, our Rockford Police Department had more than 500 calls that involved mental illness or mental health issues.
- In Winnebago County, the number of suicides each year has jumped 30 percent in the last decade.
- A minimum of 50 psychiatric beds per 100,000 people is considered necessary to provide minimally adequate treatment for individuals with severe mental illness.
    - Illinois fails to meet this minimum standard.

Mercyhealth has said it is confident that other providers will be able to provide the services that had been provided by its now-closed unit. The facts tell a different story.

- SwedishAmerican Hospital in Rockford currently has 20 adult inpatient beds for mental health.
- On average, **since Mercyhealth closed its unit prior to this hearing, the unit at SwedishAmerican has been 90 percent full on the adult side.**

When the unit reaches its capacity of 20 adult patients and someone is in the emergency department needing inpatient care, they transfer the patient to another psychiatric facility in the state, usually in the Chicago area.

Imagine your friend or family member, in crisis, being told they were going to be transferred 50 miles away, or more.

I concur with SwedishAmerican, whose leadership told me that while they recognize Mercyhealth as a local competitor in the health care field, they believe the greater good of our community and the mental health of our citizens is what is most important.

Now more than ever, the community should be adding resources for mental health, not taking them away.

On March 17 of this year, voters in Winnebago County approved a half-cent increase in our sales tax to fund a Mental Health Board. The estimated annual revenue of $12-14 million would be allocated to help fill gaps in current mental health services, suicide prevention, homelessness and overuse of emergency services, all issues that impact our quality of life.

I was happy to support and pleased this referendum passed, showing that the need for additional mental health services was clearly supported by the taxpayers. **Our community has skin in this game.** We must make delivering those services a priority**. The inpatient unit at Mercyhealth North Rockton Ave. is a key part of those services.**

The work to pass this referendum was led by citizens who believe, as I do, that the State has abdicated its responsibility to provide mental health care at the same level it does for other forms of health care. However, we must also take care of ourselves. Prior to the referendum passing, Winnebago County was the largest urban area in Illinois with no local funding for mental health services.

That is a tremendous improvement and we look forward to the positive impact. **Just as important as the Mental Health Board is, I urge you to require Mercyhealth to fulfill its stated responsibility to serve ALL its patients.**

Thomas P. McNamara
Mayor
Office of the Mayor

This is more than bricks and mortar. This is more than statistics, charts and data. It's about my family. Our neighbors. Our young people. **All of us who should have a right to safe and affordable mental health care in our community.**

Thomas P. McNamara—Mayor, City of Rockford

Thomas P. McNamara
Mayor
Office of the Mayor

September 3, 2020

Via hand delivery
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THE CITY OF ROCKFORD ILLINOIS, USA

Thomas P. McNamara
Mayor
Office of the Mayor

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Mayor
Office of the Mayor

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Thomas P. McNamara—Mayor, City of Rockford

THE CITY OF ROCKFORD ILLINOIS, USA

Anqunette S. Parham, JD, MPH
Executive Director
Human Services Department

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

September 3, 2020

Re: Opposition to Mercy Health System's Behavioral Health Closure E-032-20

I am the Executive Director of the City of Rockford's Human Services Department, which is the designated public Community Action Agency for Winnebago and Boone Counties. Community Action Agencies exist to break the cycle of generational poverty and to mitigate the immediate effects of poverty on individuals, families, and neighborhoods. We address systemic, community and individual factors through key strategies that include the provision of direct services, partnering, collaborations and advocacy.

While our office has experienced great successes in the area of ending homelessness among the sub-populations of veterans and chronically homeless persons, we unfortunately cannot count Mercy Health among our list of partners that helped us achieve this milestone. Sixty percent of homeless persons in our community have a diagnosed mental illness. It is incredibly difficult to stabilize the housing situations of these individuals, without them having access to adequate mental health care.

Mercy's strategic decline, and intentional withdrawal of service delivery to Medicaid patients has placed a significant burden on another local hospital that has been an integral partner to us, Swedish American Hospital, a Division of UW Health.

The discontinuation of Mercy's behavioral health program on the west side of Rockford, will prove to have lasting negative effects on the Rockford community as-a whole. About half of our client base across all service areas, have unmet mental health needs. These conditions have only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has significantly increased the onset of mental health issues such as anxiety and depression. Unlike, many other traumatic events, this one has not ended quickly, but has and will continue to have, on-going traumatic impacts on individuals and families throughout our community.

Five years ago Mercy Health made numerous promises about this Rockton Avenue facility and the services that would continue there. Mercy Health promised community members that they would not abandon the Rockton Avenue facility. They acknowledged how vital the Rockton campus was to the quality of life on Rockford's west side, and promised to provide significant space for community needs and development. They indicated plans to continue both inpatient and outpatient Behavioral Health Services, acknowledging that they are critical needs in this community. Unfortunately, the emptiness of those promises is devastating to the most vulnerable citizens of Rockford. I urge this committee to deny Mercy's request, for the sake of those with the greatest needs in Rockford.

Thank you,

Anqunette S. Parham, JD, MPH

THE CITY OF ROCKFORD ILLINOIS, USA

Anqunette S. Parham, JD, MPH
Executive Director
Human Services Department

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

September 3, 2020

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Thank you,

Anqunette S. Parham, JD, MPH

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Javon Bea Hospital - Rockton Avenue, Rockford

Project Number: E-032-20

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Melissa Westphal

City Rockford State IL Zip 61108

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)

NAMI Northern Illinois

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/3/20

9/3/2020

My name is Melissa Westphal, and I'm a Rockford resident, as well as a member of the NAMI Northern Illinois Board of Directors.

Our organization works to improve the quality of life of individuals with mental illness and their families through support, education, advocacy and hope.

What we continually hear and what you are hearing today is that our region needs more mental health services, not less. Giving Mercyhealth the permission to close its 20-bed inpatient behavioral health unit is not the right decision, especially given everything that's going on in our world today.

Our NAMI board and volunteers have been scrambling since this public hearing was announced to present you with actual data to reflect the need for inpatient mental health care in our community. That task has proven very difficult – while some of our hospitals, first responders, and other partners gladly responded to our requests, others did not, meaning a complete picture of what our local needs actually are does not exist, particularly in reference to how many individuals are referred out of town for inpatient mental health treatment.

Mercyhealth in its COE application said patients can be absorbed by SwedishAmerican Hospital and KSB Hospital. Just this week, SwedishAmerican was quoted in the Rockford Register Star as saying, "On average, we have been 90% full since Mercyhealth closed their psychiatric services in Rockford. When we reach our capacity of 20 adult patients and someone is in the emergency department needing inpatient care, we are forced to transfer the patient to another psychiatric facility, which is sometimes significantly outside our area."

KSB told us they were not aware of anyone from Mercyhealth reaching out about absorbing the need. So much for "community" needs.

That's reason No. 1 why this board should not approve the certificate of exemption for Javon Bea Hospital – Rockton Avenue. More information and data are needed before this decision should be made.

The second reason is because our citizens recently approved a tax increase in the spring to support and create more mental health services in our community – not less. The closure of this unit couldn't come at a worse time. The recently

appointed Winnebago County Mental Health Board is researching our community needs to determine how to augment and where to add services.

Giving Mercyhealth the permission to permanently close its unit would make it more difficult to reopen in the future. Again, an example of bad timing.

The third reason centers on trust. Mercyhealth has been quoted in news articles saying they intend to keep outpatient services at Rockton Avenue. But how can we trust them based on the sheer number of services being eliminated or reduced just this year?

In timelines you have and will see presented from other people, Mercy reduced its Medicaid offerings in April, closed its PICU in June, filed to close the behavioral health unit in July and consolidated emergency services in August.

I hope you can see why it's difficult to trust that mental health services will remain a priority.

Giving Mercyhealth the permission to close its inpatient behavioral health unit is the wrong decision – period.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Javon Bea Hospital - Rockton Avenue, Rockford

Project Number: E-032-20

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Xavier Whitford

City Loves Park State IL Zip 61111

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)
Nami Northern Illinois
Tommy Coval Memorial Fundation

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

RE: Public Hearing E-032-20 Javon Bea Hospital - Rockton Campus

Dear Health Facilities and Services Review Board,

My name is Xavier Whitford and I am speaking in absolute opposition of Mercy Health Rockford closing their Mental Health Unit on Rockton Road. This is personal for me. I know the lasting impacts of not receiving adequate mental health care as I lost my 19 year old son Tommy to suicide as a result of depression six years. We cannot put a price tag on lives like Javon Bae has.

Real Numbers ~~Statistics~~ show that suicide deaths in and around Winnebago County continue to rise year after year. Our City of Rockford Police respond to an average of 2-3 suicidal subject related calls per day and another 1-2 for drug overdose related calls. The City of Rockford Fire Department responds to an average of 10 mental health/overdose related transports a day with the Mercy-Rockton campus receiving the second largest number of patient transports.

Mercy has failed their commitment to our community. Mercy would like us to believe that there is no demand for their services, hence no need. But the truth is Mercy deliberately and premeditatedly created "no demand" by systematically eliminating the people who needed their services the most by refusing their insurance coverage.

What does it say about Mercy Health ignoring the needs of people coping with severe mental illness in their times of crisis by increasing the barriers to treatment access and then using those barriers as the reason to file this petition. This is clear discrimination against the people who need the protection of quality mental health treatment.

Mercy Health is dodging their responsibility to provide this community with quality health care.

If Mercy's petition for Certificate of Exemption is granted, 20 treatment beds will instantly disappear from our community. Without another hospital petitioning for the expansion of their acute mental illness bed allotment, our citizens in need of immediate care will have to compete for care instead of receiving it. That is merciless and inhumane.

What would it say about our community if we let corporate medicine, corporate greed, purposefully eliminate the safety and surety of our health care despite the obvious need for it. Mercy Health has abandoned Mental Health. Mercy Health has lied and been deceitful. Mercy Health has failed their commitment to our community. That's why we are objecting to this petition and the Health Facilities and Services Review Board should too. Deny Mercy Health's Request

Xavier Whitford

Executive Director/Founder Tommy Corral Memorial Foundation

NAMI Northern Illinois Board Member

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Javon Bea Hospital - Rockton Avenue, Rockford

Project Number: E-032-20

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Christina Peacock
City Rockford State IL Zip 61107

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) National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/3/20

to end mental health services, there is also an ulterior motive that needs to be acknowledged. Javon Bea Memorial is systemically cutting off the West side of Rockford from mental and physical health care. First was the Pediatric ICU…then 4 types of Medicare/Medicaid…Emergency services…and now mental health services. They are using you and the vote you are set to cast here today as part of their efforts to shut down the Rockton campus permenantly. This should make you angry, that a so-called Non-profit is willing to use your vote as a scapegoat in this massive exclusion of an entire segment of our city. When is enough enough? There are many statistics that have been and will be shared with you tonight regarding the correlation between mental health and drug use, homelessness, and crime. Please…take it to heart, and try to put faces to those statistics. Mental illness impacts 1 in 5-think about that for the people in this room alone. So please-I urge you-vote against Javon Bea and Mercy Health's request to end this vital service in Rockford. Stand up for those that cannot stand up for themselves.

Good Afternoon, and thank you for taking the time to meet with all of us regarding such an important topic. Before you lies a decision that will impact the positive trajectory of Rockford's road to societal improvement. Javon Bea Mercy Health has chosen to close the doors of its mental health wing, which as you know houses 20 acute mental illness beds. As for why they are closing-Javon Bea is quoted to say that they "continue to average only 2-3 patients a day", and their Certificate of Exemption cites that their "ongoing low patient census trend has not allowed [them] to retain psychiatric physician coverage". I want everyone to really think about that for a minute. In a world where, according to the rrstar "mental health therapists' caseloads are bulging. Waiting lists for appointments are growing. And anxiety and depression are rising among Americans amid the Coronavirus", we are to believe that Javon Bea Memorial Hospital is being UNDER utilized? This should alarm you. What kind of toxic work environment was existing that would allow Mercy to allow their mental health program to fall so far to the wayside? What kind of poor practices were in place by the administration assuring the eventual failure of this program?

Aside from the misinformation that Javon Bea Memorial has cited numerous times in their charge

SWEDISHAMERICAN

A DIVISION OF UW HEALTH

Thursday, September 3, 2020
Re: Public Hearing E-032-20 Javon Bea Hospital – Rockton Campus – Application for Exemption for Discontinuation of 20-Bed Acute Mental Illness Category of Service at Javon Bea Hospital – Rockton Avenue Campus, 2400 N. Rockton Avenue, Rockford, Illinois

At SwedishAmerican, we pride ourselves in living out our mission of caring for our community. For more than 100 years SwedishAmerican has put its patients and its community first, and that's why we publicly oppose the discontinuation of Mercyhealth's mental health unit.

Part of Mercyhealth's justification for closing its unit is the claim that SwedishAmerican is licensed for 42 acute mental illness beds and has adequate space to accommodate Rockford's mental health patients. But that number, upon closer examination, tells a different story.

Only 20 of those 42 beds are current adult inpatient beds. Twelve of the 42 are child and adolescent inpatient beds, and the remaining 10 beds we are licensed for will not be available until our remodeling project is completed in late 2021. When remodeling is finished, SwedishAmerican will then have 26 adult beds and 16 child and adolescent beds. In the meantime, we can only accommodate 20 inpatient adults in our psychiatric unit. Since Mercyhealth stopped their services we're now averaging 18 patients every day in the unit, which puts us at 90 percent capacity. In addition, our emergency department has already seen an increase in adult mental health patient visits per month, with an average of 400 growing to 450.

It's true, Mercyhealth is our competitor, and to see our numbers rise is good business for us. But our bottom line is not what's most important here. People are. If those numbers continue to rise, we will get to a point where we reach capacity and will not be able to care for human beings who come to us for help. A patient needing those services would remain in our emergency department until we could find a location to accept them as inpatients. Not only could that take a significant period of time, it could also be well outside our area. Putting someone through this who is in desperate need of immediate mental health care would create additional duress for the patient, emotional anguish for our caregivers, and potentially threaten the safety of our community.

Furthermore, Mercyhealth is discontinuing its psychiatric unit at a time when we are most in need of these services. We know that people are under increased levels of stress during this global pandemic and time of uncertainty. Now, more than ever, the community should be adding services for mental health, not taking them away.

Mental illness is a devastating issue in our society. SwedishAmerican promises to do our part in offering the best treatment possible, and we ask Mercyhealth to do the same. Competitiveness aside, this is about doing what's right for the health and safety of our community.

SwedishAmerican, A Division of UW Health
1401 East State Street
Rockford, IL 61104
www.SwedishAmerican.org

SWEDISHAMERICAN

A DIVISION OF UW HEALTH

Thursday, September 3, 2020
Re: Public Hearing E-032-20 Javon Bea Hospital – Rockton Campus – Application for Exemption for Discontinuation of 20-Bed Acute Mental Illness Category of Service at Javon Bea Hospital – Rockton Avenue Campus, 2400 N. Rockton Avenue, Rockford, Illinois

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SwedishAmerican, A Division of UW Health
1401 East State Street
Rockford, IL 61104
www.SwedishAmerican.org

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Javon Bea Hospital - Rockton Avenue, Rockford

Project Number: E-032-20

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Violet Johnicker

City Rockford State IL Zip 61109

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)

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/3/20

Johnicker

September 3, 2020

Comment to Board of MercyHealth RE: Closure of Mental Health Unit

The closure of the mental health unit is an immoral choice and I am begging you to reverse course and re-open this essential department. As a pastor, I have spent years working to break down the stigma and shame that people of faith often feel when they are dealing with a mental illness. Generations of Christians were harmed by clergy and church leaders who suggested prayer as a substitute for professional mental healthcare, but I and so many others affirm an approach of "prayer AND," meaning that prayer and a psychiatrist, prayer and medication, prayer and treatment are needed to face a mental health diagnosis. It is a deeply faithful thing to seek mental health treatment.

We have worked to celebrate the God-given wisdom of mental healthcare professionals and encourage those in our congregations to get care when they need it, but ~~you~~ MercyHealth have made a fool of us by taking away mental healthcare options and making it much more difficult for people to receive needed mental healthcare in a crisis. People are not products – you can't just outsource them to the nearest backup hospital. It often takes incredible strength and courage for someone to finally come in for help or bring their loved one in to the hospital, and instead of welcoming those most in need ~~you~~ Mercy have shut ~~your~~ their doors and said ~~you~~ they weren't profiting enough off of these people's pain.

Keeping the doors to this mental health unit closed is morally wrong, it is deeply offensive to those of us who are doing all in our power to encourage people to seek mental healthcare, and it is a sin for ~~you~~ Mercy to know the needs of the community and shut ~~your~~ their doors in our faces. You can still do the right thing by reversing this decision, and we implore you to make that change immediately.

Sincerely,

Rev. Violet Johnicker

4949 Radnor Dr, Rockford, IL 61109

3

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Javon Bea Hospital - Rockton Avenue, Rockford

Project Number: E-032-20

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Kelsey LaNou
City Rockford State IL Zip 61101

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)

N/A

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/3/20

My name is Kelsey LaNou
I am a lifelong Rockfordian
I am a licensed social worker
And I have a passion for making lives better. & I actively oppose the closure of this unit

According to Need Determination documents provided by IDPH - Rockford and its surrounding area requires a minimum of 77 inpatient psychiatric beds. The proposed closure of 20 licensed beds at Mercyhealth would mean our area would be left 21 below the IDPH minimum. Please note- Mercyhealth is licensed for 20 beds but has, for years, operated with 14 or less. The data presented in this petition is therefore skewed to show underutilization, justifying closure. I do not need to break down rudimentary statistics for you to recognize that data representing the ~~volume~~ occupancy of this unit is **purposefully** inaccurate.
Their slashing of beds in Janesville also speaks to Javon Bea's false promises
This unit already closed without approval on July 17th due to alleged staffing issues. Mercyhealth still employs multiple psychiatrists. The supposed lack of coverage is not because of an inability to find qualified individuals, it is due to Mercy's refusal to retain and appropriately utilize them. This was an **active, calculated** choice-not a "difficult" one.
To suggest that the loss of these services can be replaced by an outpatient clinic with a several month wait list is reckless and actively puts lives in danger. Outpatient mental health treatment is NOT an adequate solution for someone in an acute psychiatric crisis.

Additionally,
The emergency department environment is not a therapeutic one for patients potentially waiting days for an accepting facility. Emergency medicine doctors and nurses cannot be expected to take the place of psychiatrists skilled in psychopharmacology or social workers trained in various therapeutic techniques.

The presented solution **is to transfer** patients to outlying psychiatric facilities which are disappearing at an alarming rate.
Chicago Lakeshore Hospital closed its doors to inpatient services last year- resulting in a loss of 161 beds
Our other local hospitals cannot be expected to absorb this demand.

Alarmingly, patients without funding have two options-to pay their daily rate of approximately $1500 a day up front or be referred to the closest state facility. Elgin Mental Health Center, which serves Winnebago County, only has one civil unit. Yesterday intake workers at Elgin estimated the wait for their services is at least 10 days.

Most of the facilities within 100 miles are free standing psychiatric hospitals. They are not within a larger medical hospital, lacking the capability of monitoring and treating many common health issues, making transfer at times impossible. Many are also for-profit: they do not have to play by the same rules as nonprofit systems and can deflect for seemingly any reason. They see medical comorbidities and complexities as a liability.

Common reasons for deflection from a stand-alone psychiatric facility include:
Pregnancy
Autism
obesity
Cardiac concerns
Epilepsy
Diabetes
Cancer
Legal history
Aggression
Self harm
Homelessness
History of Noncompliance with treatment

Most patients requiring psychiatric admission meet at least one of the aforementioned criteria
Mercyhealth's unit remains an essential service to this city.
Closure will result in irreversible damage to our community. Please do not allow executive mismanagement of resources to result in permanent loss of services for this increasingly vulnerable population.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Javon Bea Hospital - Rockton Avenue, Rockford

Project Number: E-032-20

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Jeri Hose-Ryan

City Rockford State IL Zip 61103

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)
NAMI Northern Illinois

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/3/20

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Javon Bea Hospital - Rockton Avenue, Rockford

Project Number: E-032-20

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Jim Nabors Jr
City Rockford State IL Zip 61101

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) Winnebago County Mental Health Board

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/3/20

September 3, 2020

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

525 W. Jefferson St., Second Floor

Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Review Board,

The Winnebago County Mental Health Board is disheartened by Mercy Health's request and subsequent actions to close their mental health beds. We find this inconsistent with mental health trends and community need.

Mental Health Trends

A growing body of evidence suggests increasing rates of mental illness. For example, depression among Medicare users has increased from 15.28% to 17.93% from 2011 to 2017 on a national level and from 16.11% to 17.93% in Winnebago County[1]. From 2004 to 2016, suicide mortality (age-adjusted) rates have increased more than 20% nationally and more than 30% in the State of Illinois[2]. Children's mental health trends are also concerning with suicide rates for children ages ten to fourteen tripling from 2007 to 2017[3]

While mental illness was already on the rise prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, recent research suggests greater psychological distress during the pandemic for people with serious mental illness,[4] a trend which can be predicted to increase the number of psychiatric crises and, in turn, the need for mental health hospital beds. These trends suggest a need for more community mental health beds, not less. In fact, research has demonstrated the need for 50 psychiatric beds per 100,000 people[5]. In absence of adequate community beds, individuals in psychiatric crisis fill up our emergency rooms, jails, and prisons.

Community Need

Consistent with mental health trends, Mercy has seen an increase in admissions for acute mental illness – up to 593 in 2018 from 570 in 2015. It is only because the average length of stay has decreased that the average daily census has decreased. Yet, it is hard to understand how this request fits with Mercy's own assessment of community need. According to Mercy Health's FY2021 Community Benefit Plan[6]a

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[1] Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. 2017.
[2] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Vital Statistics System. Accessed via CDC WONDER. 2013-17.
[3] https://sites.nationalacademies.org/cs/groups/dbassesite/documents/webpage/dbasse_196552.pdf
[4] https://www.cebm.net/covid-19/severe-mental-illness-and-risks-from-covid-19/
[5] https://www.treatmentadvocacycenter.org/storage/documents/no_room_at_the_inn-2012.pdf
[6] https://mercyhealthsystem.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Winnebago-County-6.9.20.pdf

key area of community need includes improving the behavioral health status of community members with a noted tactic to "continue to provide inpatient and outpatient medicine service to area residents."

It is worth noting that Mercy Health's North Rockton Ave Campus does not reside in a designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) for mental health[7]. While we understand the overall difficulty of attracting psychiatrist to the region, we find it unconvincing that this is an impossible task or a legitimate reason for closing down a much needed service in our community.

We ask that you please take into consideration the preceding information and rule in favor of keeping these much needed beds in our community.

Sincerely,

Winnebago County Mental Health Board

[7] https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area/hpsa-find

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Javon Bea Hospital - Rockton Avenue, Rockford

Project Number: E-032-20

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Zax Rotello

City Rockford State IL Zip 61103

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)

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

I CLOSING MERCY HEALTH MENTAL WARD

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral ~~Written~~

9/3/20

To:
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 W. Jefferson St., Second Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

From:
Zak Rotello
2322 Harlem Blvd
Rockford IL 61103
zakrotello@gmail.com
815.378.8079

Re: Request to close Mental Health Services at Javon Bea/Mercyhealth Rockford

To whom it may concern —

My younger brother Eli has suffered from mental illness / schizophrenia for the last 15 years. It came on suddenly when he turned 22 and unfortunately, his case has proven to be severe. Even when on meds, he requires a few hospitalizations a year (sometimes many more). The illness can be managed, but it will never go away. Learning and dealing with the mental health system in Illinois has been a rough ride, especially for my parents.

10+ OVERNIGHT HOSPITALIZATIONS

Budget cuts under Bruce Rauner closed ~~every single~~ MOST long-term mental care facility in the Rockford region — there are no more full time care facilities for people like my brother. Recently, any remaining group homes / assisted living facilities have closed their intake due to COVID concerns. It's estimated that one third of all inmates in IL prisons are mentally ill (we closed the mental asylums, only to replace them with prisons, where the mentally ill receive a fraction of the care they need, and are vulnerable to attacks from other inmates or correctional officers.)

If the Rockton Mercyhealth campus closes for mental health care, the remaining immediate care hospital (Swedish American) only has about 20 beds for mental / behavioral patients. When those beds are full (and they frequently are — in our 15 years of dealing with my brothers' illness, more than half the time there have been no beds available), patients are either denied care, simply turned away, or at best, shipped off into Chicago or further away for treatment. We've been though this a hundred times (unfortunately, not an exaggeration). My brother has been sent to Aurora, far south Chicago, St Louis, and beyond. Of course, this makes follow-up care and family support incredibly difficult, so the likelihood of repeat hospitalization goes up. We've heard the term 'revolving door patient" entirely too many times.

Now Javon Bea is seeking to discontinue the mental health services at MercyHealth on Rockton. They're saying that there's not enough demand, that there's only ~~2-3~~ 3-5 mental health calls per day. I can only give my personal / anecdotal evidence. Despite my brother being admitted to that hospital many times over the years, the last few times we've taken my brother to RMH (most recently this year, Feb 4) in the midst of another psychotic episode, he has been refused care — either the beds are all full, or the nurses said "He needs acute care and we can't help with that." According to nurses I've spoken with, the numbers are being fudged to make it easier to remove this service from the Reckon Avenue Mercyhealth. Of course, it's easy to claim there's only have 2-3 patients a day, when a hospital refuses to admit patients.

UNFAIR

BEDS FOR MUSCLE BURSEAU ABUSE

I WISH AN RPD REPRESENTATIVE WAS HERE

I realize that I don't know the ins and outs of running hospitals. That's well beyond my pay grade. And I realize that my personal experience with the mental health system is not anecdotal. But from discussing our experience with others, I don't feel I'm alone in feeling this way,. Removing services is absolutely the wrong direction our community should be heading. I believe that our elected leaders and now, CEOs of multi billion dollar hospital conglomerates, are truly failing the "least of us," the people who can't stand up for themselves.

I AM FORTUNATE TO COME FROM A FAMILY WITH ACCESS

Javon Bea / Mercyhealth should not be allowed to discontinue their behavioral health treatment, as ~~they are~~ sorely needed in our community.

Thank you for your time.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Javon Bea Hospital - Rockton Avenue, Rockford

Project Number: E-032-20

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Logan Lindberg
City Rockford State IL Zip 61104

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) NAACP - City Voice

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/3/20

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Javon Bea Hospital - Rockton Avenue, Rockford

Project Number: E-032-20

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Tori Smith

City Loves Park State IL Zip 61111

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)

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/3/20

020

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Javon Bea Hospital - Rockton Avenue, Rockford

Project Number: E-032-20

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Judy Moe BRUCE MOE
City Rockford State IL Zip 61103

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)
~~Concerned citizen for Health Care~~

Not representing a group -

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/3/20

Neo natal - move - close

Emergency

- loss of enthusiasm
  - confusion

1/2 of county on West Side

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Javon Bea Hospital - Rockton Avenue, Rockford

Project Number: E-032-20

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Margiret Murphy
City Machesney Park State IL Zip 61115

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)
Concerned citizen and the ~~wife~~ wife of a person with mental illness

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

My husband attempted to complete suicide in May I took him to OSF St. Anthony hospital emergency room for 1½ days while the staff looked for an open bed so he could get treatment and medications. He was finally able to be transferred to a bed at a treatment facility but spent ~~well over~~ hours in a small room w/no treatment besides food and a bathroom. We need more psychiatric beds not less.

9/3/20

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Javon Bea Hospital - Rockton Avenue, Rockford

Project Number: E-032-20

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Jeanette M. Towns

City Rockford State IL Zip 61104

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)

_____

_____

_____

_____

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/3/20

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Javon Bea Hospital - Rockton Avenue, Rockford

Project Number: E-032-20

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Susan Schroeder

City Rockford State Il Zip 61103

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)
Citizens

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/3/20

Mercy Health Hearing
9/3/2020

Good afternoon, my name is Susan Schroeder. I am the CEO at Stepping Stones of Rockford, Inc. We are a community mental health center located here in Rockford. Stepping Stones serves individuals who are 18 and older and have a serious mental illness. The most common diagnoses are schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. All individuals have Medicaid or a Managed Care Organization (MCO) as their insurance and Social Security Income or Social Security Disability Income to pay for their daily needs. The vast majority of individuals we serve live in homes and apartments that have some level of staff supervision.

In spite of this supervision, individuals will at times require inpatient psychiatric hospitalization. Our treatment approach is to ensure continuity of care when individuals require care outside of our program. With the individual's permission, we speak with the hospital staff to discuss their typical level of functioning. We attend staffing's to assess readiness to return home. When hospitalized in Rockford, we provide transportation and help to settle them back in their home once they are discharged. When individuals are hospitalized outside of our community, this continuity of care process is very difficult and often times impossible.

In the past 3 years, Stepping Stones has had individuals require inpatient psychiatric hospitalization on 87 occasions. Of these, 24 were at Mercy Health on Rockton Ave, 15 at Swedish American Hospital, and 48 were hospitalized outside of our community. The majority of the hospitalizations out of town were in Chicago. Over **half** of the individuals requiring inpatient psychiatric hospitalization from our agency alone, were unable to have their needs met in their own community. Shame on our community.

When people require hospitalization for physical health needs, they are never sent to another hospital or town due to lack of beds, yet this happened **more times than not**, when individuals we serve required psychiatric treatment in a hospital. How do people get to the hospital in Chicago for a psychiatric admission

you might ask, they are most frequently transported by ambulance at tax payers expense.

The data I just gave you is from Stepping Stones alone. We are a small organization. What must these numbers look like when considering all who live in Rockford and the surrounding communities who require inpatient care?

According to the recently released 2020 Healthy Community Study a 27% of the respondents reported having at least one mental illness or behavioral health issue. These rates are comparable to State and National findings, which show that 1 in 5 adults have been diagnosed with a mental illness. One in twenty-five people experience a serious mental illness.

Rockford Fire/911 reports that thus far in 2020 they have responded to 1001 individuals calling for a mental health need. Of those, they transported 943 to one of our local hospitals. In addition, between August 18, 2019 and August 18, 2020 the Rockford Police Department has transported 121 individuals requiring psychiatric evaluation, responded to 842 individuals who were despondent or suicidal, and were called 26 times for individuals who took their own lives. These numbers are only from two departments responding to individuals requiring assistance for their mental health needs. These numbers do not include the Winnebago County Sheriff or surrounding police and fire departments.

The people who live in the area which surrounds the Mercy Health Rockton Avenue campus already have a more difficult time accessing needed services. Many are unemployed or under employed, live in poverty, have food insecurity, are socially isolated, have housing instability and have had adverse early life experiences. These factors often are a predictor of poor mental health and an increased risk of mental illness. Mercy Health made a commitment to this community when they built the new hospital on Riverside. They are not keeping this commitment and are making getting treatment more difficult for those who need it most.

Mercy Health speaks of the cost to their hospital system as a reason to stop providing services to individuals with Managed Care as their payer source as well

as to close their inpatient psychiatric unit. What about the cost to people and our community? 20% of people experiencing homelessness also have a serious mental illness. $1 trillion is lost in productivity each year due to depression and anxiety disorders. 37% of people incarcerated in state and federal prisons have a diagnosed mental health condition. 70% of youth in the juvenile justice system have at least one mental health condition. Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for people ages 10-34 and the overall suicide rate has increased 31% since 2001. 1 in 8 visits to emergency rooms in the United States are related to mental illness and/or substance use disorders. Mood disorders are the most common cause of hospitalization for all people in the US under age 45 excluding hospitalization related to pregnancy and birth.

On behalf of the individuals served at Stepping Stones and of all individuals in our community and surrounding area who at times require inpatient psychiatric care, I respectfully request that this committee deny Mercy Health's application to close their inpatient psychiatric unit. Our community needs additional inpatient psychiatric beds not fewer.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Susan Schroeder, CEO
Stepping Stones of Rockford, Inc.
706 N. Main St.
Rockford, IL 61103

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Javon Bea Hospital - Rockton Avenue, Rockford

Project Number: E-032-20

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Carlene Calosi
City Rockford State IL Zip 61108

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)

Rosecrance

Opposed due to Bed Capacity

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/3/20

Good Afternoon,

I am Carlene Cardosi, Chief Operating Officer for Rosecrance incorporated. Rosecrance has been asked numerous times to give our opinion regarding the closing of the psychiatric unit at Mercy. However, we are unable to speak to Mercy's utilization patterns, nor the specific reasons or merit as to why they have closed this program. We can support and attest to Mercy's statement regarding a severe shortage of psychiatrists for this region, and for that matter nationally. Rosecrance relies heavily upon the use of video-psychiatry for this reason.

I can specifically report on the amount of mental health crisis calls and interventions that Rosecrance responds to in this area. During the last 12 months, Rosecrance has provided crisis services to an estimated 900 adults, the vast majority have been stabilized at our crisis triage center on Mulberry St. For those requiring hospitalization, we referred _26 to SAH, 28 to Mercy hospital and 62 clients out of the county for hospitalization due to insufficient beds. We are concerned about making certain there are an adequate number of acute beds to meet the needs of this community, and hope to avoid moving anyone from this region out of county for care.

We are also unable to speak to Mercy's plan on serving those who seek crisis services at their locations. We had discussions earlier this summer regarding a possible partnership with Mercy in assisting clients in crisis, similarly to services provided at other local hospitals, however leaders from Mercy have reported they are working on an alternate plan.

Thank You

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Javon Bea Hospital - Rockton Avenue, Rockford

Project Number: E-032-20

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (*Please Print*) Nanjean Turnboe

City Mach. Pk. State IL Zip 61115

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)

_____

_____

_____

_____

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Javon Bea Hospital - Rockton Avenue, Rockford

Project Number: E-032-20

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Julie Sanders

City Rockford State_____ Zip_____

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)

_____

_____

_____

_____

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/3/20

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Javon Bea Hospital - Rockton Avenue, Rockford

Project Number: E-032-20

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) David Lawrence

City Rockford State IL Zip 61114

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)

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Javon Bea Hospital - Rockton Avenue, Rockford

Project Number: E-032-20

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Angie Goral

City Rockford State IL Zip 61103

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)
Winnebago County Board Member District 13 Residence of neighborhood

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/3/20

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Javon Bea Hospital - Rockton Avenue, Rockford

Project Number: E-032-20

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Delbert Brown

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

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)

_____

_____

_____

_____

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

Angie Goral

Winnebago County Board Member

District 13

Home Office 1108 No. Rockton Ave.

Rockford, IL 61103

To the Members of the State Of Illinois Managed Care Organizations

I am Angie Goral, I am here on be half of Winnebago County District 13 and a life long resident of the neighborhood of Mercy Health Systems Rockton Ave. campus. I need to express my disappointment in Mercy Health Systems for terminating their Medicaid Managed care contracts.

Especially at the present time of the Covid-19. Yes we are all struggling with the economic lost to our community. At this time the County, City, Business, individuals that have lost their jobs and health insurance and the list goes on. We have all had to make adjustments to our budgets.

Closing the NICU that MHS has been advertising on Television and other media as the top rated Center in Northern IL. Eliminating the Mental Health and Substance abuse beds. Which at this time, when the community is in crisis and needs these service more now than ever.

This County has needed more Mental and Behavioral Health plus Substance Abuse providers. On March 17 of this year the tax payers of Winnebago County recognized the seriousness of this issue and voted for ½ cent increase in sales tax to help those in need of services. Majority of insurance company's do not cover these cost for a long period of time. These individuals then have to receive Social Security Disability or Medicaid. There is no other funding services for them.

The other hospitals and providers make adjustments to cover the lost of revenue. When MHS took over the operations of RMh they were aware of the type of services that were preformed there. They also were aware of the economic problems existing in Winneabgo County especially the city of Rockford. They held meetings making promises of how the RM campus would remain many of there services

Over the pass 5 or 6 years MHS have continued to close different services and dismiss personnel. Again MHS is threating to dismiss 1300 more staff if The city of Rockford will not replace a Storm sewer that runs in front of the Rockton Campus. In 2018 during a heavy down pour their basement flooded. All the other properties surrounding the campus had no trouble. But MHS insist it is the city's problem and their attorneys has a law suite against the Mayor and the City Council on their behalf.

MHS has also stated that they would continue services if Medicaid would pay them the actual cost of services. Believe me if they can perform that miracle every provider in the State of Illinois would be able to balance their budgets.

Like I said at the beginning I am very disappointed in Mercy Health Services. They should take the Mercy out of their name because they show no mercy to those in most need.

Thank you for this hearing. I hope it will not be a waste of those who participated in this hearing.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Javon Bea Hospital - Rockton Avenue, Rockford

Project Number: E-032-20

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) William Rose

City Rockford State Il Zip 61101

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)
City of Rockford - 9th Ward Alderman

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/3/20

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Javon Bea Hospital - Rockton Avenue, Rockford

Project Number: E-032-20

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) VICTORY BELL
City ROCKFORD State ILL Zip 61102

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)
COMMUNITY

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/3/20

Victory Bell Business Consultant

September 3, 2020

Subject: Victory Bell, Bell Business Consultant, provides written information at the Public hearing regarding Mercy-health's mental health unit closure.

August 26, 2015, I presented my written letter of support to Mercy Rockford Health System – Project Number: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040, to Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator Illinois Health Facility Service and Review Board.

I have enclosed the following for your review:

1) Resolution signed by the Board of directors of Mercy Rockford Health Systems Corporation (Rockton Avenue Commitment)
2) Letter to Ms. Courtney Avery
3) Proposal for bids to perform security and Technology Services.
4) Southwest Site Properties
5) Meeting request from Ms. Ann's Soulful Casserole.
6) West Rockford Revitalization Committee,
7) Scope of work from Pierre Clark.
8) Mercy Rockford's responsibility to the West side of Rockford.

The 8 items listed above demonstrates that Mercy Health has failed to live up to its promise to the citizens of west Rockford, the city of Rockford and the County of Winnebago County, consequently, I strongly request you deny Mercy Health their request to close their Mental Health Unit.

Respectfully Submitted

Victory Bell

Victory Bell, Owner Bell Business Consultant

Victory Bell Business Consultant 2597 Meadow view Lane Rockford, Illinois 61102 Phone # 815-963-1075

August 26, 2015

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: Support for MercyRockford Health System -- Project Numbers: 15-038, 15-039, 15-040

Dear Ms. Avery:

I have been active in improving the quality of life in Rockford for most of my life…as a long-time Rockford Alderman, as a successful businessman and as a life-long resident of the Westside of Rockford. I attended the announcement of the MercyRockford plan to develop two campuses and one hospital. I fully endorse this bold plan and believe it will lead to a higher quality of life in the Rockford community while preserving essential healthcare services on the west side of Rockford.

It is imperative that our community maintains a viable hospital on the Westside. I am pleased that the leadership of MercyRockford acknowledges the importance of Rockford Memorial Hospital for the quality of life for those who live on the western side of the Rock River. Thus I am pleased that MercyRockford did not abandon its Rockton Avenue facility.

In addition, MercyRockford is continuing to provide 24 hour emergency care along with routine care from doctors that most of us have been treating us for years. Thus continuity of healthcare will not suffer by the building of the second campus on Riverside.

I am also excited to see that MercyRockford will provide significant space for community needs and development. I look forward to playing a role in defining this role for this building. I, along with many other African American leaders understand the importance of this space to train and educate our youth and serve our constituents.

I urge you to approve this project…the sooner the better.

Very truly yours,

Victory Bell
VB1516@aol.com

MERCYROCKFORD
Health System

MERCYROCKFORD HEALTH SYSTEM DEMONSTRATES COMMITMENT TO ROCKTON AVENUE CAMPUS

November 4th, 2015

MercyRockford Health System Board of Directors, at the October 21 board meeting, unanimously approved a resolution detailing in writing its commitment to the N. Rockton Avenue campus. At a news conference today, MercyRockford President and CEO Javon Bea presented the resolution to Rockford Mayor Larry Morrissey, Winnebago County Board Chairman Scott Christiansen and other community leaders. The resolution reinforces the depth of MercyRockford's commitment to its legacy hospital on the west side of Rockford.

Additionally, the health system recently announced plans to develop a new state-of-the-art specialty care facility at E. Riverside and I-90 and maintain hospital services on the existing N. Rockton Avenue campus, creating ***One Hospital on Two Campuses*** to best serve communities in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin.

After receiving valuable input from citizens and leaders of the Rockford community, the MercyRockford Board of Directors responded by formally committing to continuing a robust and thriving health care campus on N. Rockton Avenue.

As a result the MercyRockford Health System Board of Directors, contingent on receiving all necessary approvals for its ***One Hospital on Two Campuses*** plan, commits:

- To maintain a N. Rockton Avenue campus, providing hospital-based and outpatient services to its patients and investing $50 million in capital improvements over the next ten years, and

MERCYROCKFORD
Health System

MercyRockford.org

3401 N. Perryville Rd., Ste. 303
Rockford, IL 61114
815.971.1000

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF MERCYROCKFORD HEALTH SYSTEM CORPORATION
[Rockton Avenue Campus Commitment]

WHEREAS, in October of 2014, the Boards of Directors of Mercy Health System and Rockford Health System agreed to merge to create MercyRockford Health System, a dynamic regional healthcare system that honors the legacies of both systems and their respective commitments to serving their communities and the Stateline region;

WHEREAS, Rockford Memorial Hospital, from its inception in 1883, has a legacy and commitment of providing high-quality healthcare to the citizens of the greater Rockford area, including those residing on the West Side of Rockford;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of MercyRockford Health System believes it is in the best interests of the communities it serves in Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin, to operate Rockford Memorial Hospital as ***One Hospital on Two Campuses,*** whereby a new state-of-the-art specialty care facility will be developed at E. Riverside Boulevard and I-90, while maintaining hospital services on the existing N. Rockton Avenue campus; and

WHEREAS, in response to input from valued citizens and leaders of the Rockford community, the MercyRockford Health System Board of Directors believes it is appropriate to express its commitment to the N. Rockton Avenue campus.

NOW, THEREFORE, the MercyRockford Health System Board of Directors hereby resolves, contingent on receiving all necessary approvals for its ***One Hospital on Two Campuses*** plan, 1) to maintain a N. Rockton Avenue campus, providing hospital-based and outpatient services to its patients and investing $50 million in capital improvements over the next ten years and 2) to create a special advisory group consisting of MercyRockford and select community leaders to advise the board on repurposing the original Rockford Clinic Building, a 200,000 square foot building at 2300 N. Rockton Avenue for community and economic development purposes.

Rowland J. McClellan, Chair
MercyRockford Health System

Jayon R. Bea, President and CEO
MercyRockford Health System

Connie M. Vitali, M.D., Vice Chair
MercyRockford Health System

Thomas D. Budd, Treasurer
MercyRockford Health System

Thomas R. Pool, Secretary
MercyRockford Health System

Jack Bechner, Ed.D.
MercyRockford Health System

Mark L. Goelzer, M.D.
MercyRockford Health System

Paul A. Green
MercyRockford Health System

Dave L. Syverson
MercyRockford Health System

Victory Bell Business Consultant

Jennifer Hall
Vice President,
Government Relations and Community Advocacy
Mercyhealth
2400 N. Rockton Avenue
Rockford, Illinois 61107

January 6, 2017

Victory Bell, Owner Bell Business Consultant
2597 Meadow View Lane
Rockford, Illinois 61102

Subject: Proposal for bids to perform Security and Technology Services

Dear Jan:

It has come to my attention that Mercyhealth will be requesting bids from professional certified businesses to perform a variety of services for Mercyhealth. I realize Mercyhealth has a commitment for Advancing the Development of Minority Entrepreneurship in the Rockford Region. Therefore, I am submitting this correspondence to request a meeting with you regarding the following:

1) To introduce you to a business client of Bell Business Consultant.
2) To discuss the feasibility of my client and I, submitting bids to Mercyhealth for professional business services.
3) We would like to submit bids for Security and Technology Services at both of your campuses in Rockford.
4) To share with you our respective expertise and discuss references at your request.

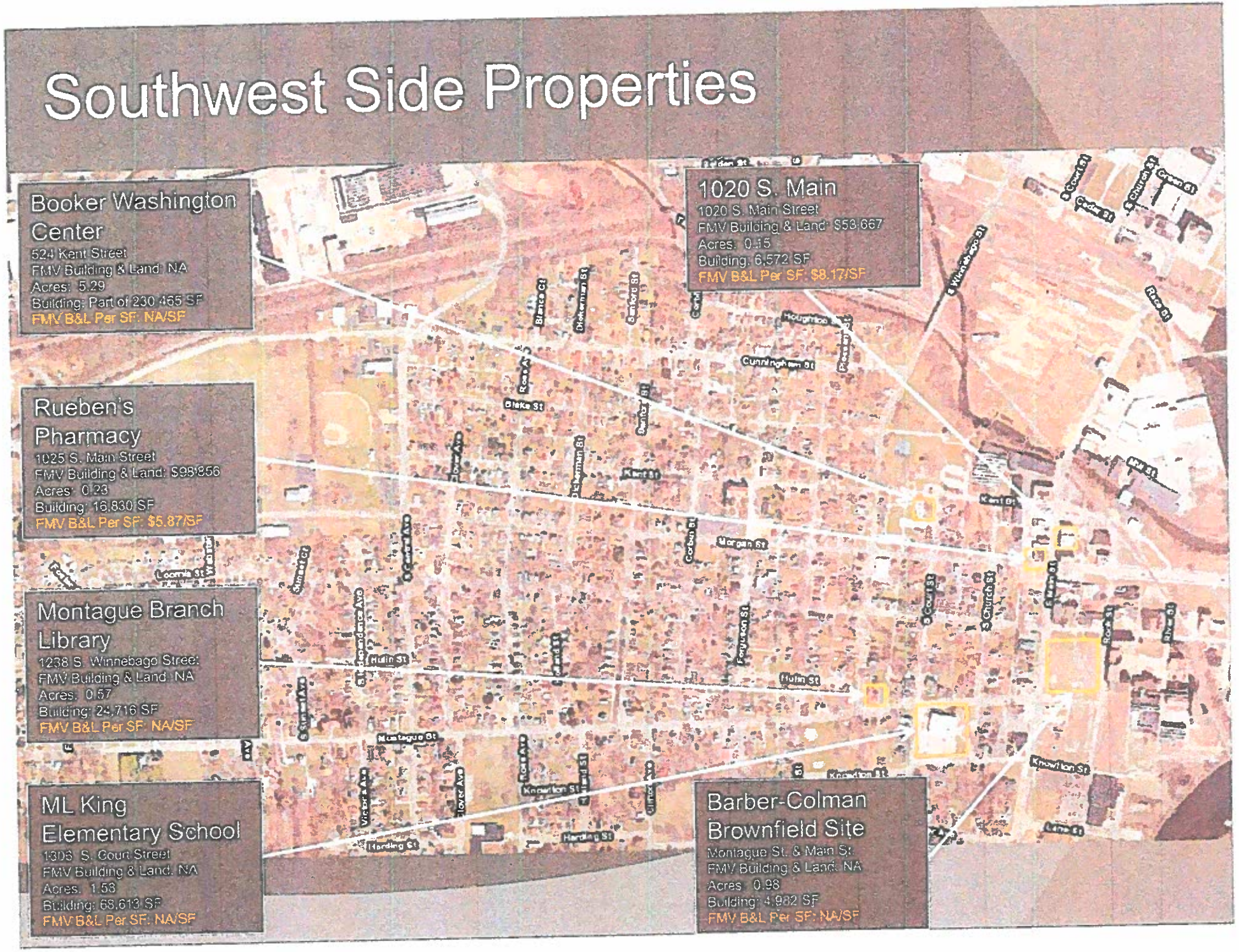
I will call you January 11, 2017 to plan a meeting with you to discuss the outlined items.

Respectfully Submitted,

Victory Bell

Victory Bell, Bell Business Consultant

Southwest Side Properties



MercyRockford's Responsibility to the West Side of Rockford

It was a grand day on November 17th with the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board unanimously approved our Certificate of Need application from MercyRockford Health System to create "one hospital on two campuses." Equally impressive, all eight board members of the Board voted in favor of our project.

In the December issue of Insight...the news for Rockford Health System Employees publication, Javon Bea, president and CEO of MercyRockford, wrote, "It's important to remember those in the community who supported the project." Representative Litesa Wallace was cited in the article saying the vote was "the right thing to do, but the pressure from the opposition did not make it easy".

Rep. Wallace was indeed right...those who represent the west side of Rockford were pressured and criticized for their decision. They were accused of selling the west side of Rockford out. Alderwoman Venita Hervey led the opposition but many west side residents joined Ms. Hervey in assuming that MercyRockford Health System would not be true of their word. In their minds, we wouldn't improve the Rockton Campus. We wouldn't keep Rockford Memorial Hospital as a vibrant and critical facility. Ten years from now, they feared that the west side of Rockford would be worse off than if the CON request was denied.

In addition to Rep. Wallace, many west Rockford leaders supported our request.

Dr. Charles Washington

Reverend and Doctor Louis Malone

Reverend Peter Williams, facilitator of the Rockford's Minister's Fellowship

Ms. Dorothy Reddic, Executive Director, Black Healthcare Initiative Coalition

Mr. Victory Bell, Retired Alderman

Illinois Senator Steve Stadelman

In total, 30 community leaders offered comments supporting our request at the hearings. Indeed all contributed, but no one would contribute more than those noted, and surely, no others took a bigger risk than those noted.

Next Steps to Honor Speakers who Represented West Rockford

President Bea has promised that the N. Rockton campus will receive no less than $8 million per year in the future. In addition, the Rockford Clinic building on the Rockton Campus will be available to organizations that serve the community. Bea was quoted as

saying that "this is another way we will transform the campus while strengthening partnership and creating job opportunities in the neighborhood."

Bea's promises are both significant and relevant. They may assure the vitality of the N. Rockton campus well into the future. However, these promises are future-driven. They do not address the pressing and current needs of the west side of Rockford. It will likely be three years, or more, before the Rockford Clinic will be available for productive initiatives. The west side of town needs support this year. Its citizens need training, education and jobs now. Every year that we wait will prevent progress.

Charting a path for change.

The west side leaders who supported our CON request are banking on MercyRockford Health System to engage West Rockford soon, and not only with excellent healthcare, but also, to provide a catalyst for West side progress. The pastors and leaders who supported MercyRockford are hoping that MercyRockford will make the west side of Rockford to a better place. This was fundamental to the Rockford Minister Fellowship's decision to support our expansion plans.

How can MercyRockford help West Rockford?

- **Partner with companies that are creating West side jobs**. Rockfast is a public-private partnership to create a Manufacturing Incubator Center, combined with training and employment center at 1310 Preston.
- **Consider using the products made on West Rockford**. Companies are seriously bringing a LED lighting company to 1310 Preston. Also, a group of entrepreneurs are considering building a commercial laundry on the west side of Rockford, if the regional hospitals will give them their business. Most or all of the employees would be west Rockford residents. Engaging these companies at this time would increase the likelihood that they would come to our community.
- **Train unemployed West Rockford job seekers** in the attitudinal and characteristics of keeping a job. Mr. Larry Williams has developed a program that results in high job placement and strong job retention.
- **Listen to the leaders who supported our CON request.** When warranted, support viable endeavors that will improve West Rockford Health System.

Know what are competition is doing

It is important to know what OSF and SwedishAmerican Hospitals in our community. We should provide comparable service to our competition, with a focus on the west side of Rockford.

- SwedishAmerican Hospital has spent $6 million in revitalization projects in the Jackson Oaks neighborhood, to fix up homes. The hospital campus benefits by improving the community close to its hospital and the community benefits by stabilizing the value of its houses.
- OSF Health Center will be training paramedics to join Belvidere SWAT teams. Also, OSF has partnered with Rock Valley College to share a new, modern College of Nursing. Without OSF's capital contribution the building would not have built on the RVC campus.

Summary

It is important for MercyRockford Health System to determine its contribution to community. Community leaders stepped up to support MercyRockford's CON request, hoping that would provide benefit to West Rockford. MercyRockford can be proactive in determining and announcing our intentions, before our advocates come to us for support.

Scope Of Work
From
Pierre A. Clark, Development Consultant
1212 East Marquette Road * Chicago, Illinois 60637-4435
312-970-0249

SCOPE OF WORK
ROCKFORD ILLINOIS
Organizational Development & Project Development Initiatives

Organizational Contact:
Southwest Ideas For Today And Tomorrow
Victory Bell, Board Member
1005 S Main St.

Rockford, IL 61101

P.O. Box 966

Rockford, IL 61125

(815) 965-3606

1. Formation Of West Rockford Revitalization Committee
Organizing Documents, 501(c)3, Strategic Plan
2. Formation Of West Rockford Community Development Corporation
Organizing Documents, 501(c)3, Strategic Plan
3. Strategic Plan - Outreach Program
Community Outreach Agenda
Rockford Memorial Hospital/Mercy Rockford Hospital System
4. Development Plan: West Rockford Revitalization Committee
West Rockford Community Development Corporation

Total: $15,000.00
Retainer: $3,000.00
$2,000.00 - Approved
$1,000.00 - Pending
Balance: $12,000.00

TOTAL COSTS AND FEES:
Work Product: 50 Hours
1 Development Of Organizational Plan - West Rockford Revitalization Committee
2 Development Of Organizational Plan - West Rockford Community Development Corporation
3 Program Development
A. Telehealth-telemedicine Initiative
B. Tech Center WiFi Broadband Planning Document
C. Call Center - Development And Installation

C. Digital Literacy Initiative Document
D. Implementation Of Leadership Development Grant - Rockford Leadership Council
Total:
$6,250.00

Filing fees for organizing, submitting paperwork with state and 501 (c)3 Applications.
$850.00 501 (c)3 1023 Application
$850.00 501 (c)3 1023 Application
$200.00 - Expedited State Filing Fee, Articles Of Incorporation, State and Federal Tax I.D.s
$200.00 - Expedited State Filing Fee, Articles Of Incorporation, State and Federal Tax I.D.s
Total: $2,100.00
Additional Grantswriting Fees:
Grantswriting Fees - Grants Research And Four Grants

1. EDDNI/EDA Application
2. Northern Illinois Foundation Application
3. Rockfast Grant Application
4. Strategic Plan Outline: Ten-year Mercy Rockford - West Rockford Redevelopment Plan

$6,650.00
Total All Fees: $15,000.00

Updated Work Description Summary
1. A.) Setup: West Rockford Revitalization Committee NFP (WRRC), West Rockford Community Development Corporation (WRCDC)
Articles, By-Laws, Tax I.D., 501 (c)3 Tax Exemption Status Application, Organizational Plan For Both Entities

B.) Funding Grants and programs strategies and funding applications for WRRC, WECDC
- State, DCEO, County, EDA, HUD, HHS

Projects
Telemedicine-Telehealth Initiative In West Rockford In Partnership With WECDC and Rockford Memorial - Mercy Rockford
Cost: To Be Determined

Setup/Installation: Videoconferencing Multi-media Room And Tech Center @ SWIFTT As Part Of WiFi Broadband NOC
Cost: To Be Determined

Setup/Installation: Wifi Network, Ward 54 West Rockford, Partnership With Two organizations in formation in West Rockford.
Cost: To Be Determined

Setup/Installation: Call Center - Inbound And Outbound Call Center

Grants Funding Strategy, Grants Applications, Rockfast Project: $1,500,000.00 In Funding Solicitation - Allen Murphy

West Rockford Revitalization Committee

Mercy/Rockford One Hospital; two Campuses

West Rockford Revitalization Committee will focus on new opportunities for community based economic development in West Rockford communities.

Recent events in West Rockford including the planned $400 million Mercy/Rockford one hospital with two campuses proposal, which will significantly impact the existing Rockford Memorial Hospital complex on N. Rockton Avenue has focused attention again for the need for a comprehensive economic development plan encompassing the future of the West Rockford community.

The new hospital development announced by Mercy/Rockford merger which will result in changes at the 60-year old Rockford Memorial Hospital, presents us an opportunity to rethink and plan for future economic development/quality health care activities in the west side community," says Victory Bell a former Alderman 5th Ward Rockford Illinois who, alone with a group of residents and community development experts recently announced the formation of the West Rockford Revitalization Committee, according to Bell, will focus on five main strategic goals:

1) To create an economic development plan and continue providing quality health services at the Rockton Avenue campus which will leverage and focus on new revitalized use for community assets in West Rockford communities, including the existing Rockford Memorial Hospital campus.
2) To commission and implement a market and analysis of the West Rockford area to determine the assets and amenities now existing as well as those missing assets that should be developed for the area to improve the quality of life in the West Rockford community.
3) To create a bottom-up community development owned and implemented by the residents and stakeholders of West Rockford.
4) To bring together within the agenda a team of professionals who will work with the committee to implement a ten year economic development plan.
5) To solicit and attract development and resources and funding to the West Rockford area to support the revitalization-redevelopment efforts.

The ten member Rockford Redevelopment Committee should be established within 90 days.

Respectfully Submitted,

Victory Bell

ubject: **RE: Ms. Ann's Soulful Casserole**
)ate: 12/4/2017 12:38:50 PM Central Standard Time
'rom: jahall@mhemail.org
:o: vb1516@aol.com

Hi Victory,

hope you are doing well. Unfotunately I am just seeing this email and am unavailable to meet today.

Regards,
Jen

Jennifer Hall
Vice President
Government Relations & Community Advocacy
815-975-0466 cell
jahall@mhemail.org

From: I [mailto:vb1516@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2017 11:10 PM
To: Hall, Jennifer
Subject: Fwd: Ms. Ann's Soulful Casserole

Jennifer Hall, Vice President
Government Relationship and Community Affairs
Mercy/health
2400 N. Rockton Ave.

The attached information is provided to introduce you to Ms. Ann's Soulful Casserole Marketing Business. I have also attached Ann's Biography for your review.

Ann is performing in Chicago, Illinois Sunday December, 3, 2017 and will be coming Rockford Monday, December 4, 2017 to see her father, Rev. Perry Bennett, Pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church. You will remember during the meetings of CON for Mercy/Health, our meetings were held at Macedonia Baptist Church
for the Ministerial Fellowship on Saturday Morning. Rev Bennett is the Senior Minister of the Fellowship.

Bell Business Consultant, is working with Ms. Ann by introducing her business to the potential markets in the Rockford Region.

I am requesting a meeting with you Monday, December 4, 2017 if possible. Mr. Timothy Lee, is Business Director will be able to meet with us Monday.

Ms. Ann and Timothy Lee were residents in Rockford and are well known in the residential and business community in the Rockford Region

Thank you for you meeting and support.

Victory Bell, Bell Business Consultant
Cell: 815-978-6338

Subject: **RE: Ms. Ann's Soulful Casserole**
Date: 12/4/2017 12:38:50 PM Central Standard Time
From: jahall@mhemail.org
To: vb1516@aol.com

Hi Victory,

I hope you are doing well. Unfotunately I am just seeing this email and am unavailable to meet today.

Regards,
Jen

Jennifer Hall
Vice President
Government Relations & Community Advocacy
815-975-0466 cell
jahall@mhemail.org
Mercyhealth

From: I [mailto:vb1516@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2017 11:10 PM
To: Hall, Jennifer
Subject: Fwd: Ms. Ann's Soulful Casserole

Jennifer Hall, Vice President
Government Relationship and Community Affairs
Mercy/health
2400 N. Rockton Ave.

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Victory Bell, Bell Business Consultant
Cell: 815-978-6338

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Javon Bea Hospital - Rockton Avenue, Rockford

Project Number: E-032-20

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) HARLAN Johnson

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

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)

_____

_____

_____

_____

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/3/20

LMFT LCPC

RMH → Level One ER

Systems → INSTITUTIONAL RACISM MORTALITY RATE

WCAT – ~~[illegible]~~ 0-3 Times

~ Women & children

Not Interested

→ Half Billion Bldg

Round one of Troop Sign

~~[illegible]~~

Salary to Jason Bea

& Dorothy [illegible]

Not for profit?

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Javon Bea Hospital - Rockton Avenue, Rockford

Project Number: E-032-20

I. IDENTIFICATION
Name (*Please Print*) Lori Beto
City Rockford - Loves Park State IL Zip 61111

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)

III. POSITION (*please circle appropriate position*)

Support Oppose Neutral

IV. Testimony (*please circle*)

Oral Written

9/3/20