

**.Health Facilities and Services Review Board (HFSRB), Public Hearing Report**

Project: E-007-15, Kishwaukee Community Hospital

Project: E-008-15, Valley West Community Hospital

Project: E-009-15, The Midland Surgical Center

On September 24, 2015, HFSRB Staff, Juan Morado Jr. and Jeannie Mitchell, conducted 3 public hearings for Projects: E-007-15, Kishwaukee Community Hospital; E-008-15, The Midland Surgical Center, E-009-15, Valley West Community Hospital.

The hearings were held at 10:30AM, 12:45PM, and 1:45PM, at the DeKalb Municipal Building, City Council Chamber, 200 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, DeKalb. Board member in attendance: Kathy Olson. Board Staff notes that although individual hearings were held for the projects, individuals maintained the same position for each project. The attendance sheets reflect the individual testimony.

**Project: E-007-15, Kishwaukee Community Hospital**

Individuals who registered appearance only: 11

Support: 11

Oppose: 0

Neutral: 0

Individuals who registered to provide oral/written testimony: 9

Support: 5

Oppose: 0

Neutral: 4

Total individuals registered: 20

Number of Letters received: 5

Support: 5

Oppose: 0

Neutral: 0

**Project: E-008-15, Valley West Community Hospital**

Individuals who registered appearance only: 0

Support: 0

Oppose: 0

Neutral: 0

Individuals who registered to provide oral/written testimony: 6

Support: 5

Oppose: 0

Neutral: 1

Total individuals registered: 6

Number of Letters received: 5

Support: 5

Oppose: 0

Neutral: 0

**Project: E-009-15, The Midland Surgical Center**

Individuals who registered appearance only: 1

Support: 0

Oppose: 0

Neutral: 1

Individuals who registered to provide oral/written testimony: 5

Support: 5

Oppose: 0

Neutral: 0

Total individuals registered: 6

Number of Letters received: 5

Support: 5

Oppose: 0

Neutral: 0



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: The Midland Surgical Center

Project Number: E-009-15

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print)

Tom Matya

City

DeKalb

~~Winfield~~

State

IL

Zip

60115

Signature

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)

Kish Health system

III.

POSITION (please circle appropriate position)

Support

Oppose

Neutral

IV.

Testimony (please circle)

Oral

Written

9/24/15

September 24, 2015

My name is Tom Matya and I am here today as a long-time citizen of DeKalb, a local businessman, and also as the current chair of the KishHealth System Board of Directors. I'd like to thank the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board for conducting this hearing and allowing me, on behalf of our board, medical staff, and community, to explain why we are excited about the potential affiliation with Northwestern Memorial HealthCare. I'd also like to walk you through the timing and steps that led us to this final phase of our journey towards the goal of joining Northwestern Medicine.

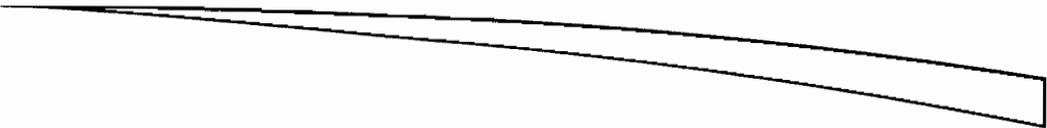
The decision to pursue an affiliation with Northwestern Memorial Healthcare was the culmination of a diligent process of research occurring over the past several years. The Board of Directors recognized the need to explore different healthcare delivery models in order to keep the health system strong and relevant amidst the changing healthcare landscape. On this long and thoughtful exploration, the board considered many options and many partners. The health system's strength, stability, and commitment to quality put us in a position to choose a partner that would best fit the needs of our community and represent the values and culture of excellence that this organization lives by.

The Board of Directors is very excited for the benefits the community will see when KishHealth System becomes part of Northwestern Medicine. In a unique synergy of community-based providers practicing as part of an academic health system, the community will see an expansion of resources and services. The ability to fill our existing clinical gaps, such as neurology, pulmonology, cardiology and behavioral health, and those we could foresee in the future was the highest priority in choosing a partner. Coordination across all patient care settings will drastically improve the patient's experience, quality of care, and safety.



# KishHealth System

Be Health Empowered.



Northwestern Memorial Healthcare is robust and strong; we should all take comfort in knowing that the services we rely on will remain and that there is a strong commitment to grow and invest in the healthcare needs of our community. Now more than ever before we will be directly connected to specialists, advanced care, and leading edge research.

Our community should feel confident in the board's unanimous decision to join Northwestern Medicine, as it was backed by a large investment of time, education, and exploration. This decision was made for the positive impact it will have on our patients, caregivers, local businesses, and the overall community. Quality healthcare services will be vibrant in our area for many years to come.

Thank you,



Tom Matya

Board Chair, KishHealth System



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

2

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: The Midland Surgical Center

Project Number: E-009-15

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) MIKE VIVONA

City WILFELD State IL Zip 60190

Signature Mike Vivona

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)

Northwestern Medicine

III. POSITION (please circle appropriate position)

Support      Oppose      Neutral

IV. Testimony (please circle)

Oral      Written

Good morning. I am Mike Vivoda, President of Northwestern Medicine's western region. Northwestern Medicine is excited to be moving forward with our proposed affiliation with KishHealth System. If approved by the Health Facilities and Services Review Board in November, the Northwestern Medicine/KishHealth affiliation will provide patients with convenient access to care distinguished by clinical innovation, educational excellence, and breakthrough research services in more than 90 locations across eight Illinois counties by 26,500 outstanding physicians, nurses, staff, and volunteers—one patient at a time. Our focus will be on increasing the depth of our clinical capabilities, enhancing physician collaboration, and improving efficiencies in care.

As one of the nation's premier destinations for patient care, Northwestern Medicine is committed to academic excellence, scientific discovery, and providing the highest level of healthcare quality and patient safety. By working as one health system, KishHealth and Northwestern Medicine will allow patients greater access to world-class care where they live and work.

We look forward to the opportunity to provide the residents of DeKalb County and northern Illinois with more convenient access to enhanced clinical innovation and breakthrough research as part of our integrated academic health system. By joining with Northwestern Medicine, KishHealth patients will also have a seamless pathway to access advanced specialty care and clinical trials at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago and access to the specialized care that is offered in the western region, specifically Behavioral Health services.

Central DuPage Hospital in Winfield offers a complete continuum of inpatient and outpatient mental health services for both adults and adolescents. Since 2011, the need for inpatient psychiatric services at CDH has increased by nearly 20%. This growing demand for behavioral health care in the western suburbs has led to the expansion of our inpatient psychiatric beds. When complete this October, the expansion will increase the total number of inpatient psychiatric beds from 15 to 48.

Additionally, the CDH campus offers Addiction Services for adults, including both inpatient and outpatient levels of care, as well as Outpatient Mental Health programs for teens and adults. We are committed to locating outpatient services in the community and as such offer Outpatient mental health services for teens and adults at our St. Charles BHS building.

In closing, we believe that the proposed affiliation will allow Northwestern Medicine to expand regionally to serve the health care needs of DeKalb County and the neighboring communities and will allow KishHealth to improve the health status of the populations and communities it serves regardless of changes in care or payment models. We look forward to our review by the Health Facilities and Services Review Board on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you.



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

3

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: The Midland Surgical Center

Project Number: E-009-15

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) Kevin Poorten

City DeKalb State IL Zip 60115

Signature Kevin Poorten

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)

Kish Health System

III. POSITION (please circle appropriate position)

Support      Oppose      Neutral

IV. Testimony (please circle)

Oral      Written

September 24, 2015

My name is Kevin Poorten and I am the President and CEO of KishHealth System. The entities that make up KishHealth System have been serving the healthcare needs of this community for decades, growing and changing to adapt to the evolving healthcare landscape. Our role has expanded far beyond caring for people when they're hurt or sick to proactively engaging with our community to keep people well. Our board and senior leadership continually evaluate new ways to improve the healthcare delivery system for those we serve.

By joining Northwestern Medicine, patients in this community will have access to world class care, conveniently located where they live and work. They will benefit from consistency, coordination and collaboration across many settings of care. Northwestern Memorial HealthCare shares our same values and emphasis on quality, safety, and patient satisfaction.

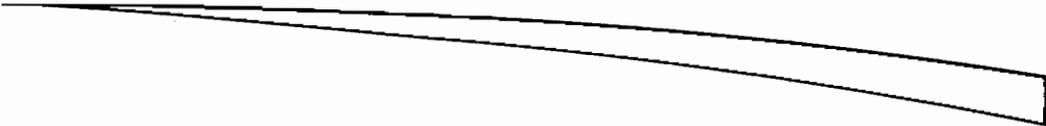
Community is and always has been at the heart of all we do, and making the thoughtful decision to join Northwestern Medicine was done solely for the benefit of our community. They strongly support the promotion of community health and well-being through not only patient care, but also wellness, research, and education.

Northwestern Memorial HealthCare is committed to continuing the strong community involvement and support that have been such an important part of the KishHealth System culture for many years. Our investment in the community expands far beyond medical care, to education, sponsorships, and scholarships. We are the largest private employer in DeKalb County, providing jobs and benefits to over 1,600 individuals. Our economic impact through spending and giving supports local businesses and area economics. There are provisions in our pending agreement with Northwestern Memorial HealthCare that protect local funds, both from donations and existing capital, to be used here in ways that will most benefit our community's needs.



# KishHealth System

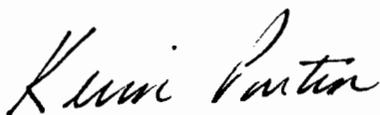
Be Health Empowered.



Our vision is to join a leading health system that supports significant improvements in healthcare delivery and outcomes, while preserving investments in our community. We know that this affiliation over time will improve the health status of the populations we serve. Joining Northwestern Medicine will only increase the breadth and depth of what we can provide locally, including greater access to specialty physicians, comprehensive care, and cutting-edge treatments.

Innovation is a key to success; together with Northwestern Memorial HealthCare, we will develop, align, share, support, and adopt the use of best clinical and operational practices across the system. Innovations will be made to bring the experience of patient care to exceptional levels and advance the boundaries of medical science, medical education, and clinical practice through discovery, translation into clinical care, and dissemination of knowledge. Community members can feel confident that, with Northwestern Medicine, access to world class, comprehensive, and convenient healthcare will be enhanced throughout our service areas long into the future.

Thank you,



Kevin Poorten

President and CEO, KishHealth System



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

4

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: The Midland Surgical Center

Project Number: E-009-15

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) Michael Flava

City DeKalb State IL Zip 60115

Signature [Handwritten Signature]

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)

Ben Gordon Center

III. POSITION (please circle appropriate position)

Support      Oppose      Neutral

IV. Testimony (please circle )

Oral      Written



## Ben Gordon Center

September 24, 2015

### **DeKalb**

12 Health Services Drive  
DeKalb, Illinois 60115  
PHONE: 815-756-4875  
FACSIMILE: 815-756-2944  
TOLL-FREE: 1-866-BGC-0121

### **Community Support Program/Reality House**

631 South First Street  
DeKalb, Illinois 60115  
PHONE: 815-756-8501  
FACSIMILE: 815-756-5849  
TOLL-FREE: 1-866-BGC-0079

### **Community Employment Placement Services**

631 South First Street  
DeKalb, Illinois 60115  
PHONE: 815-756-8501  
FACSIMILE: 815-756-5849  
TOLL-FREE: 1-866-BGC-0079

### **Sandwich**

100 South Latham Street, Suite 204  
Sandwich, Illinois 60548  
PHONE: 815-786-7544  
FACSIMILE: 815-786-7580

**TDD** 815-756-5589

[www.bengordoncenter.org](http://www.bengordoncenter.org)

Good Morning, I am Michael Flora, the President and CEO of Ben Gordon Center in DeKalb, IL. Our organization has been providing mental health counseling and substance abuse treatment services to DeKalb County since 1968. We have over 40 counselors and therapists who care for adults, children and families at our main facility and four satellite locations across the area, serving over 5,300 patients annually.

For many years, our organization has benefited greatly from KishHealth System's generous financial support. We have appreciated our long history of continuous collaboration with the health system and recognize its dedication to meeting the mental health needs of the community, through their outpatient programming and subsidies for inpatient care. Additionally, they support numerous agencies and initiatives that provide mental health education, awareness, and intervention throughout our area.

We are excited for the benefits the affiliation with Northwestern Memorial HealthCare will bring to this community, in the area of behavioral health services among many others. Access to inpatient care in an expanding unit at Central DuPage Hospital and specialized programs, like those for addiction and eating disorders, will now be accessible for all patients.

The Ben Gordon Center, like many other mental health providers across the state, is facing serious financial challenges due to changes and decreases in funding and an increase in need for the services we provide. For this reason, our board of directors approached and are in discussions with KishHealth System to explore ways our two organizations could come together in order to preserve our mental health and substance abuse services that are so necessary in this community.



on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations



United Way

The financial strength and resources of KishHealth System will help to sustain and expand Ben Gordon's outreach to the community, providing a better continuum of care for all patients. Transitional services can better be facilitated, especially when clients step down from inpatient mental health treatment and begin lower levels of care closer to home. With KishHealth System's wide array of healthcare services, clients can also receive improved access to primary and specialty care, particularly those with multiple health problems.

DeKalb County residents can look toward a brighter future as Ben Gordon Center works together with the Northwestern Medicine system. This affiliation means area individuals and families seeking mental health and substance abuse services will benefit from an organization that has vast experience, expertise, and resources. Northwestern Medicine is a strong and committed organization, which has proven its dedication to behavioral health by its investments in expanding services. On behalf of the board of directors and staff of The Ben Gordon center, we fully support this pending affiliation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Flora", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael D. Flora, MBA, M.A.Ed., LCPC

President and CEO, Ben Gordon Center



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

5

**Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form**

**Facility Name: The Midland Surgical Center**

**Project Number: E-009-15**

**I. IDENTIFICATION**

Name (Please Print) Michael Kalisz, DO

City DeKalb State IL Zip 60115

Signature Michael Kalisz

**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)

Rish Health System

**III. POSITION** (please circle appropriate position)

Support

Oppose

Neutral

**IV. Testimony** (please circle )

Oral

Written

September 24, 2015

My name is Dr. Michael Kulisz; I am the Chief Medical Officer for KishHealth System and a physician with over twenty years of experience practicing in the Emergency Department at Kishwaukee Hospital. I have seen the progression of care and growth this organization has taken to remain relevant, and the dedication of this administrative team to do everything possible for the people and areas we serve.

Treating patients compassionately and providing high quality care are the primary goals of the medical providers, nurses and support staff across our organization. As a physician leader, I'm pleased to know that Northwestern Memorial HealthCare shares these same goals and desires to continually improve and innovate. We do all we can to be certain that our patients receive the highest level of care. Using research and community input, we monitor and adapt our services and priorities to meet the current health needs and concerns of the communities we serve.

Among many others, one area of focus for KishHealth System is Behavioral Health Services. The health system provides a robust outpatient program, with several locations across DeKalb County. We continue to expand this area of service; our Sycamore and Sandwich locations see over 250 patient appointments weekly. Now, with the addition of our providers at KishHealth System Physician Group DeKalb, formerly the DeKalb Clinic, we've increased our visits over 40%, equating to 13,000 patient visits annually at KishHealth System's outpatient behavioral health service locations.

Our behavioral health programming includes psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed social workers, and counselors providing one-on-one care and support groups on a variety of topics. We serve adolescents and young children, adults, couples and families. Additionally, we work with a number of area employers providing EAP programming and education for business leaders and employees. Our

# KishHealth System

Be Health Empowered.

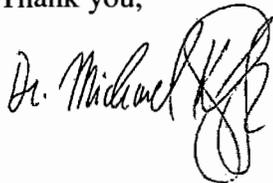
facilities provide affordable behavioral health care to those in need, accepting Medicaid and self-pay patients, while subsidizing costs through our charity care program.

Recognizing that we have clinical gaps in areas where we can't provide for every need of every patient, KishHealth System takes an active role in finding and coordinating care for patients. Filling these clinical gaps was the primary reason for pursuing an affiliation with Northwestern Memorial HealthCare, allowing us to provide comprehensive services across a single system, while seamlessly coordinating care for patients between inpatient and outpatient care settings.

When specialized care is needed, we make sure it is accessible to our patients. We work with them to remove barriers and sometimes even subsidize the cost of their care. Once part of Northwestern Medicine, our patients can receive care at the expanding inpatient psychiatric care unit at Central DuPage Hospital in Winfield.

Beyond our own programming, KishHealth System financially supports a number of area organizations dedicated to serving the behavioral health needs of our community members. This commitment to mental health services and its associated expenses represent the health system's unwavering dedication to being the cornerstone of healthcare in the communities we serve.

Thank you,



Dr. Michael Kulisz, Jr.

Chief Medical Officer, KishHealth System



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

**Public Hearing Appearance Only Registration Form**

**Facility Name: The Midland Surgical Center**

**Project Number: E-009-15**

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) MARJAN FAROUCIAN

City SYCAMORE State IL Zip 60178

Signature [Handwritten Signature]

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)

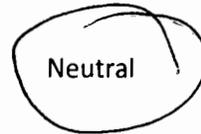
FAROUCIAN & ASSOCIATES.

III. POSITION (Circle appropriate position)

Support

Oppose

Neutral



9/24/15



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

**Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form**

**Facility Name: Kishwaukee Community Hospital**

**Project Number: E-007-15**

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) Mike Vivoda  
 City Winfield State IL Zip 60190  
 Signature Mike Vivoda

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)

Northwestern Medicine

III. POSITION (please circle appropriate position)

Support       Oppose       Neutral

IV. Testimony (please circle )

Oral       Written

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Thank you.



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Kishwaukee Community Hospital

Project Number: E-007-15

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) Kevin Poorten

City DeKalb State IL Zip 60115

Signature Kevin Poorten

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Entity, Organization, etc. represented in this appearance (i.e., ABC Concerned Citizens for Health Care)

Kish Health System

III. POSITION (please circle appropriate position)

Support      Oppose      Neutral

IV. Testimony (please circle)

Oral      Written

September 24, 2015

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# KishHealth System

Be Health Empowered.

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Thank you,



Kevin Poorten

President and CEO, KishHealth System



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

4

**Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form**

**Facility Name: Kishwaukee Community Hospital**

**Project Number: E-007-15**

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) Dr. Michael Kulisz

City DeKalb State IL Zip 60115

Signature Michael Kulisz

II. REPRESENTATION (This section is to be filled if the witness is appearing on behalf of any group, organization or other entity.)

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Kish Health System

III. POSITION (please circle appropriate position)

Support                      Oppose                      Neutral

IV. Testimony (please circle )

Oral                      Written

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# KishHealth System

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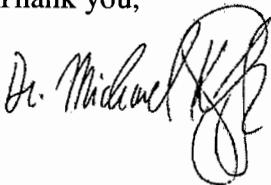
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Thank you,



Dr. Michael Kulisz, Jr.

Chief Medical Officer, KishHealth System



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

10

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Kishwaukee Community Hospital

Project Number: E-007-15

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) Tom Matya

City Dekalb State IL Zip 60115

Signature [Handwritten Signature]

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)

Kish Health System

III. POSITION (please circle appropriate position)

Support      Oppose      Neutral

IV. Testimony (please circle)

Oral      Written

September 24, 2015

My name is Tom Matya and I am here today as a long-time citizen of DeKalb, a local businessman, and also as the current chair of the KishHealth System Board of Directors. I'd like to thank the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board for conducting this hearing and allowing me, on behalf of our board, medical staff, and community, to explain why we are excited about the potential affiliation with Northwestern Memorial HealthCare. I'd also like to walk you through the timing and steps that led us to this final phase of our journey towards the goal of joining Northwestern Medicine.

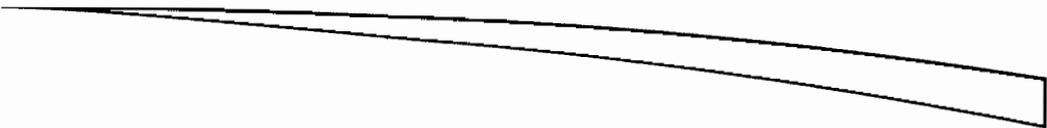
The decision to pursue an affiliation with Northwestern Memorial Healthcare was the culmination of a diligent process of research occurring over the past several years. The Board of Directors recognized the need to explore different healthcare delivery models in order to keep the health system strong and relevant amidst the changing healthcare landscape. On this long and thoughtful exploration, the board considered many options and many partners. The health system's strength, stability, and commitment to quality put us in a position to choose a partner that would best fit the needs of our community and represent the values and culture of excellence that this organization lives by.

The Board of Directors is very excited for the benefits the community will see when KishHealth System becomes part of Northwestern Medicine. In a unique synergy of community-based providers practicing as part of an academic health system, the community will see an expansion of resources and services. The ability to fill our existing clinical gaps, such as neurology, pulmonology, cardiology and behavioral health, and those we could foresee in the future was the highest priority in choosing a partner. Coordination across all patient care settings will drastically improve the patient's experience, quality of care, and safety.



# KishHealth System

Be Health Empowered.



Northwestern Memorial Healthcare is robust and strong; we should all take comfort in knowing that the services we rely on will remain and that there is a strong commitment to grow and invest in the healthcare needs of our community. Now more than ever before we will be directly connected to specialists, advanced care, and leading edge research.

Our community should feel confident in the board's unanimous decision to join Northwestern Medicine, as it was backed by a large investment of time, education, and exploration. This decision was made for the positive impact it will have on our patients, caregivers, local businesses, and the overall community. Quality healthcare services will be vibrant in our area for many years to come.

Thank you,



Tom Matya

Board Chair, KishHealth System



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

3

**Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form**

**Facility Name: Kishwaukee Community Hospital**

**Project Number: E-007-15**

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) Michael Flora

City DeKalb State IL Zip 60115

Signature 

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)

Ben Gordon

III. POSITION (please circle appropriate position)

Support       Oppose       Neutral

IV. Testimony (please circle )

Oral       Written



## Ben Gordon Center

September 24, 2015

### **DeKalb**

12 Health Services Drive  
DeKalb, Illinois 60115  
PHONE: 815-756-4875  
FACSIMILE: 815-756-2944  
TOLL-FREE: 1-866-BGC-0121

### **Community Support Program/Reality House**

631 South First Street  
DeKalb, Illinois 60115  
PHONE: 815-756-8501  
FACSIMILE: 815-756-5849  
TOLL-FREE: 1-866-BGC-0079

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PHONE: 815-756-8501  
FACSIMILE: 815-756-5849  
TOLL-FREE: 1-866-BGC-0079

### **Sandwich**

100 South Latham Street, Suite 204  
Sandwich, Illinois 60548  
PHONE: 815-786-7544  
FACSIMILE: 815-786-7580

**TDD** 815-756-5589

[www.bengordoncenter.org](http://www.bengordoncenter.org)

Good Morning, I am Michael Flora, the President and CEO of Ben Gordon Center in DeKalb, IL. Our organization has been providing mental health counseling and substance abuse treatment services to DeKalb County since 1968. We have over 40 counselors and therapists who care for adults, children and families at our main facility and four satellite locations across the area, serving over 5,300 patients annually.

For many years, our organization has benefited greatly from KishHealth System's generous financial support. We have appreciated our long history of continuous collaboration with the health system and recognize its dedication to meeting the mental health needs of the community, through their outpatient programming and subsidies for inpatient care. Additionally, they support numerous agencies and initiatives that provide mental health education, awareness, and intervention throughout our area.

We are excited for the benefits the affiliation with Northwestern Memorial HealthCare will bring to this community, in the area of behavioral health services among many others. Access to inpatient care in an expanding unit at Central DuPage Hospital and specialized programs, like those for addiction and eating disorders, will now be accessible for all patients.

The Ben Gordon Center, like many other mental health providers across the state, is facing serious financial challenges due to changes and decreases in funding and an increase in need for the services we provide. For this reason, our board of directors approached and are in discussions with KishHealth System to explore ways our two organizations could come together in order to preserve our mental health and substance abuse services that are so necessary in this community.



on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations



United Way

The financial strength and resources of KishHealth System will help to sustain and expand Ben Gordon's outreach to the community, providing a better continuum of care for all patients. Transitional services can better be facilitated, especially when clients step down from inpatient mental health treatment and begin lower levels of care closer to home. With KishHealth System's wide array of healthcare services, clients can also receive improved access to primary and specialty care, particularly those with multiple health problems.

DeKalb County residents can look toward a brighter future as Ben Gordon Center works together with the Northwestern Medicine system. This affiliation means area individuals and families seeking mental health and substance abuse services will benefit from an organization that has vast experience, expertise, and resources. Northwestern Medicine is a strong and committed organization, which has proven its dedication to behavioral health by its investments in expanding services. On behalf of the board of directors and staff of The Ben Gordon center, we fully support this pending affiliation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Flora", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael D. Flora, MBA, M.A.Ed., LCPC  
President and CEO, Ben Gordon Center



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
 HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

5

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Kishwaukee Community Hospital

Project Number: E-007-15

I. IDENTIFICATION  
 Name (Please Print) Barry Schrader  
 City DeKalb State IL. Zip 60115  
 Signature Barry Schrader

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)  
DeKalb County Citizens  
for Better Mental  
Health Care

III. POSITION (please circle appropriate position)  
 Support                      Oppose                      Neutral

IV. Testimony (please circle)  
Oral                      Written

## Health Care and Education Cost Comparisons—Compensation Chart

Kish Health CEO Poorten.....	\$1.1 million (2014)
U.S. President Obama.....	\$569,000 (2015)
NIU President Baker.....	\$450,000
Kish Finance VP Foelske.....	\$409,000
NIU Huskies Coach Carey.....	\$400,000 + bonuses
Kish Hospital President Copple.....	\$353,000
Kish Business Dev. VP Dant.....	\$323,000
Kish CIO/VP Bell.....	\$316,000
U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Murthy.....	\$181,000
Kish Hospital Nurses.....	



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

6

**Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form**

**Facility Name: Kishwaukee Community Hospital**

**Project Number: E-007-15**

I. IDENTIFICATION  
 Name (Please Print) Bessie Chronopoulos  
 City DeKalb State IL Zip 60115  
 Signature Bessie Chronopoulos

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)  
Citizen

III. POSITION (please circle appropriate position)  
 Support                      Oppose                      Neutral

IV. Testimony (please circle )  
Oral                      Written



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

7

**Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form**

**Facility Name: Kishwaukee Community Hospital**

**Project Number: E-007-15**

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) Jack Bennett

City De Kalb State IL Zip 60115

Signature Jack Bennett

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

8

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Kishwaukee Community Hospital

Project Number: E-007-15

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) Lynn Fazekas

City DeKalb State IL Zip 60115

Signature Lynn A. Fazekas

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 Appearance Only Registration Form**

**Facility Name: Kishwaukee Community Hospital**

**Project Number: E-007-15**

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) Thomas E. Kirts M.D.

City DeKalb State IL Zip 60125

Signature Thomas E. Kirts M.D.

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)

I do not appear on behalf  
of any organization

III. POSITION (Circle appropriate position)

Support

Oppose

Neutral



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

**Public Hearing Appearance Only Registration Form**

**Facility Name: Kishwaukee Community Hospital**

**Project Number: E-007-15**

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) Theresa Konitas

City Country State IL Zip 601318

Signature [Handwritten Signature]

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)

Kesh Health System

III. POSITION (Circle appropriate position)

Support

Oppose

Neutral



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

**Public Hearing Appearance Only Registration Form**

**Facility Name:** Kishwaukee Community Hospital

**Project Number:** E-007-15

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) DOUG ROBERTS

City SYCAMORE State IL Zip 60178

Signature *Doug Roberts*

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 (Circle appropriate position)

Support

Oppose

Neutral



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

**Public Hearing Appearance Only Registration Form**

**Facility Name: Kishwaukee Community Hospital**

**Project Number: E-007-15**

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) Bridget Orth

City Chicago State IL Zip 60611

Signature [Handwritten Signature]

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)

Northwestern Medicine

III. POSITION (Circle appropriate position)

Support

Oppose

Neutral



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

**Public Hearing Appearance Only Registration Form**

**Facility Name: Kishwaukee Community Hospital**

**Project Number: E-007-15**

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) Joseph Dant

City DeKalb State IL Zip 60115

Signature [Handwritten Signature]

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)

Kish Health System

III. POSITION (Circle appropriate position)

Support

Oppose

Neutral



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

**Public Hearing Appearance Only Registration Form**

**Facility Name: Kishwaukee Community Hospital**

**Project Number: E-007-15**

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) Kimberly Volk

City DeKalb State Illinois Zip 60115

Signature Kimberly Volk

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)

Kish Health System / Northwestern Medicine

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

III. POSITION (Circle appropriate position)

Support

Oppose

Neutral



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

**Public Hearing Appearance Only Registration Form**

**Facility Name: Kishwaukee Community Hospital**

**Project Number: E-007-15**

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) Karyn Erkfritz-Gay

City Forest Park State IL Zip 60130

Signature Karyn R. Erkfritz-Gay

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)

Kish Health/Northwestern Medicine

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

III. POSITION (Circle appropriate position)

Support

Oppose

Neutral



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

**Public Hearing Appearance Only Registration Form**

**Facility Name: Kishwaukee Community Hospital**

**Project Number: E-007-15**

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) Michael Kokott

City DeKalb State IL Zip 60115

Signature [Handwritten Signature]

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)

Kishwaukee Northwestern Mediane

III. POSITION (Circle appropriate position)

Support

Oppose

Neutral



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

**Public Hearing Appearance Only Registration Form**

**Facility Name: Kishwaukee Community Hospital**

**Project Number: E-007-15**

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) Rob Christie  
 City WHEATON State IL Zip 60189  
 Signature [Handwritten Signature]

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)

SENIOR V.P., EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
NORTHWESTERN MEMORIAL HEALTH CARE

III. POSITION (Circle appropriate position)

Support                      Oppose                      Neutral



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

**Public Hearing Appearance Only Registration Form**

**Facility Name: Kishwaukee Community Hospital**

**Project Number: E-007-15**

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) Alicia Watson

City DeKalb State IL Zip 60115

Signature Alicia Watson

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)

KishHealth System

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

III. POSITION (Circle appropriate position)

Support

Oppose

Neutral



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

**Public Hearing Appearance Only Registration Form**

**Facility Name: Kishwaukee Community Hospital**

**Project Number: E-007-15**

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) Patty Poorden

City Sycamore State IL Zip 60178

Signature Patty Poorden

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 (Circle appropriate position)

Support                       Oppose                       Neutral



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

**Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form**

**Facility Name: Valley West Community Hospital**

**Project Number: E-008-15**

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) Tom Matzga

City Dekalb State IL Zip 60115

Signature

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)

KISH Health System

III. POSITION (please circle appropriate position)

Support       Oppose       Neutral

IV. Testimony (please circle)

Oral       Written

September 24, 2015

My name is Tom Matya and I am here today as a long-time citizen of DeKalb, a local businessman, and also as the current chair of the KishHealth System Board of Directors. I'd like to thank the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board for conducting this hearing and allowing me, on behalf of our board, medical staff, and community, to explain why we are excited about the potential affiliation with Northwestern Memorial HealthCare. I'd also like to walk you through the timing and steps that led us to this final phase of our journey towards the goal of joining Northwestern Medicine.

The decision to pursue an affiliation with Northwestern Memorial Healthcare was the culmination of a diligent process of research occurring over the past several years. The Board of Directors recognized the need to explore different healthcare delivery models in order to keep the health system strong and relevant amidst the changing healthcare landscape. On this long and thoughtful exploration, the board considered many options and many partners. The health system's strength, stability, and commitment to quality put us in a position to choose a partner that would best fit the needs of our community and represent the values and culture of excellence that this organization lives by.

The Board of Directors is very excited for the benefits the community will see when KishHealth System becomes part of Northwestern Medicine. In a unique synergy of community-based providers practicing as part of an academic health system, the community will see an expansion of resources and services. The ability to fill our existing clinical gaps, such as neurology, pulmonology, cardiology and behavioral health, and those we could foresee in the future was the highest priority in choosing a partner. Coordination across all patient care settings will drastically improve the patient's experience, quality of care, and safety.



# KishHealth System

Be Health Empowered.

Northwestern Memorial Healthcare is robust and strong; we should all take comfort in knowing that the services we rely on will remain and that there is a strong commitment to grow and invest in the healthcare needs of our community. Now more than ever before we will be directly connected to specialists, advanced care, and leading edge research.

Our community should feel confident in the board's unanimous decision to join Northwestern Medicine, as it was backed by a large investment of time, education, and exploration. This decision was made for the positive impact it will have on our patients, caregivers, local businesses, and the overall community. Quality healthcare services will be vibrant in our area for many years to come.

Thank you,



Tom Matya

Board Chair, KishHealth System



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

2

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Valley West Community Hospital

Project Number: E-008-15

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) MIKE VIYODA

City WINFIELD State IL Zip 60190

Signature Mike Viyoda

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)

Northwestern Medicine

III. POSITION (please circle appropriate position)

Support      Oppose      Neutral

IV. Testimony (please circle)

Oral      Written

Good morning. I am Mike Vivoda, President of Northwestern Medicine's western region. Northwestern Medicine is excited to be moving forward with our proposed affiliation with KishHealth System. If approved by the Health Facilities and Services Review Board in November, the Northwestern Medicine/KishHealth affiliation will provide patients with convenient access to care distinguished by clinical innovation, educational excellence, and breakthrough research services in more than 90 locations across eight Illinois counties by 26,500 outstanding physicians, nurses, staff, and volunteers—one patient at a time. Our focus will be on increasing the depth of our clinical capabilities, enhancing physician collaboration, and improving efficiencies in care.

As one of the nation's premier destinations for patient care, Northwestern Medicine is committed to academic excellence, scientific discovery, and providing the highest level of healthcare quality and patient safety. By working as one health system, KishHealth and Northwestern Medicine will allow patients greater access to world-class care where they live and work.

We look forward to the opportunity to provide the residents of DeKalb County and northern Illinois with more convenient access to enhanced clinical innovation and breakthrough research as part of our integrated academic health system. By joining with Northwestern Medicine, KishHealth patients will also have a seamless pathway to access advanced specialty care and clinical trials at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago and access to the specialized care that is offered in the western region, specifically Behavioral Health services.

Central DuPage Hospital in Winfield offers a complete continuum of inpatient and outpatient mental health services for both adults and adolescents. Since 2011, the need for inpatient psychiatric services at CDH has increased by nearly 20%. This growing demand for behavioral health care in the western suburbs has led to the expansion of our inpatient psychiatric beds. When complete this October, the expansion will increase the total number of inpatient psychiatric beds from 15 to 48.

Additionally, the CDH campus offers Addiction Services for adults, including both inpatient and outpatient levels of care, as well as Outpatient Mental Health programs for teens and adults. We are committed to locating outpatient services in the community and as such offer Outpatient mental health services for teens and adults at our St. Charles BHS building.

In closing, we believe that the proposed affiliation will allow Northwestern Medicine to expand regionally to serve the health care needs of DeKalb County and the neighboring communities and will allow KishHealth to improve the health status of the populations and communities it serves regardless of changes in care or payment models. We look forward to our review by the Health Facilities and Services Review Board on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you.



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

3

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Valley West Community Hospital

Project Number: E-008-15

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) Kevin Poorten

City DeKalb State IL Zip 60115

Signature Kevin Poorten

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)

KishHealth System

III. POSITION (please circle appropriate position)

Support

Oppose

Neutral

IV. Testimony (please circle)

Oral

Written

September 24, 2015

My name is Kevin Poorten and I am the President and CEO of KishHealth System. The entities that make up KishHealth System have been serving the healthcare needs of this community for decades, growing and changing to adapt to the evolving healthcare landscape. Our role has expanded far beyond caring for people when they're hurt or sick to proactively engaging with our community to keep people well. Our board and senior leadership continually evaluate new ways to improve the healthcare delivery system for those we serve.

By joining Northwestern Medicine, patients in this community will have access to world class care, conveniently located where they live and work. They will benefit from consistency, coordination and collaboration across many settings of care. Northwestern Memorial HealthCare shares our same values and emphasis on quality, safety, and patient satisfaction.

Community is and always has been at the heart of all we do, and making the thoughtful decision to join Northwestern Medicine was done solely for the benefit of our community. They strongly support the promotion of community health and well-being through not only patient care, but also wellness, research, and education.

Northwestern Memorial HealthCare is committed to continuing the strong community involvement and support that have been such an important part of the KishHealth System culture for many years. Our investment in the community expands far beyond medical care, to education, sponsorships, and scholarships. We are the largest private employer in DeKalb County, providing jobs and benefits to over 1,600 individuals. Our economic impact through spending and giving supports local businesses and area economics. There are provisions in our pending agreement with Northwestern Memorial HealthCare that protect local funds, both from donations and existing capital, to be used here in ways that will most benefit our community's needs.



Be Health Empowered.

Our vision is to join a leading health system that supports significant improvements in healthcare delivery and outcomes, while preserving investments in our community. We know that this affiliation over time will improve the health status of the populations we serve. Joining Northwestern Medicine will only increase the breadth and depth of what we can provide locally, including greater access to specialty physicians, comprehensive care, and cutting-edge treatments.

Innovation is a key to success; together with Northwestern Memorial HealthCare, we will develop, align, share, support, and adopt the use of best clinical and operational practices across the system. Innovations will be made to bring the experience of patient care to exceptional levels and advance the boundaries of medical science, medical education, and clinical practice through discovery, translation into clinical care, and dissemination of knowledge. Community members can feel confident that, with Northwestern Medicine, access to world class, comprehensive, and convenient healthcare will be enhanced throughout our service areas long into the future.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin Poorten".

Kevin Poorten

President and CEO, KishHealth System



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

4

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Valley West Community Hospital

Project Number: E-008-15

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) Michael FLORA

City DEKALB State IL Zip 60115

Signature [Handwritten Signature]

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)

Ben Gordon Center

III. POSITION (please circle appropriate position)

Support                      Oppose                      Neutral

IV. Testimony (please circle )

Oral                      Written



## Ben Gordon Center

September 24, 2015

### **DeKalb**

12 Health Services Drive  
DeKalb, Illinois 60115  
PHONE: 815-756-4875  
FACSIMILE: 815-756-2944  
TOLL-FREE: 1-866-BGC-0121

### **Community Support Program/Reality House**

631 South First Street  
DeKalb, Illinois 60115  
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FACSIMILE: 815-756-5849  
TOLL-FREE: 1-866-BGC-0079

### **Community Employment Placement Services**

631 South First Street  
DeKalb, Illinois 60115  
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FACSIMILE: 815-756-5849  
TOLL-FREE: 1-866-BGC-0079

### **Sandwich**

100 South Latham Street, Suite 204  
Sandwich, Illinois 60548  
PHONE: 815-786-7544  
FACSIMILE: 815-786-7580

**TDD** 815-756-5589

[www.bengordoncenter.org](http://www.bengordoncenter.org)

Good Morning, I am Michael Flora, the President and CEO of Ben Gordon Center in DeKalb, IL. Our organization has been providing mental health counseling and substance abuse treatment services to DeKalb County since 1968. We have over 40 counselors and therapists who care for adults, children and families at our main facility and four satellite locations across the area, serving over 5,300 patients annually.

For many years, our organization has benefited greatly from KishHealth System's generous financial support. We have appreciated our long history of continuous collaboration with the health system and recognize its dedication to meeting the mental health needs of the community, through their outpatient programming and subsidies for inpatient care. Additionally, they support numerous agencies and initiatives that provide mental health education, awareness, and intervention throughout our area.

We are excited for the benefits the affiliation with Northwestern Memorial HealthCare will bring to this community, in the area of behavioral health services among many others. Access to inpatient care in an expanding unit at Central DuPage Hospital and specialized programs, like those for addiction and eating disorders, will now be accessible for all patients.

The Ben Gordon Center, like many other mental health providers across the state, is facing serious financial challenges due to changes and decreases in funding and an increase in need for the services we provide. For this reason, our board of directors approached and are in discussions with KishHealth System to explore ways our two organizations could come together in order to preserve our mental health and substance abuse services that are so necessary in this community.



on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations



The financial strength and resources of KishHealth System will help to sustain and expand Ben Gordon's outreach to the community, providing a better continuum of care for all patients. Transitional services can better be facilitated, especially when clients step down from inpatient mental health treatment and begin lower levels of care closer to home. With KishHealth System's wide array of healthcare services, clients can also receive improved access to primary and specialty care, particularly those with multiple health problems.

DeKalb County residents can look toward a brighter future as Ben Gordon Center works together with the Northwestern Medicine system. This affiliation means area individuals and families seeking mental health and substance abuse services will benefit from an organization that has vast experience, expertise, and resources. Northwestern Medicine is a strong and committed organization, which has proven its dedication to behavioral health by its investments in expanding services. On behalf of the board of directors and staff of The Ben Gordon center, we fully support this pending affiliation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Flora', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael D. Flora, MBA, M.A.Ed., LCPC  
President and CEO, Ben Gordon Center



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

5

Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Valley West Community Hospital

Project Number: E-008-15

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) Michael Kulisz, D.D.

City DeKalb State IL Zip 60115

Signature Michael Kulisz

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)

Kish Health System

III. POSITION (Please circle appropriate position)

Support       Oppose       Neutral

IV. Testimony (Please circle)

Oral       Written

September 24, 2015

My name is Dr. Michael Kulisz; I am the Chief Medical Officer for KishHealth System and a physician with over twenty years of experience practicing in the Emergency Department at Kishwaukee Hospital. I have seen the progression of care and growth this organization has taken to remain relevant, and the dedication of this administrative team to do everything possible for the people and areas we serve.

Treating patients compassionately and providing high quality care are the primary goals of the medical providers, nurses and support staff across our organization. As a physician leader, I'm pleased to know that Northwestern Memorial HealthCare shares these same goals and desires to continually improve and innovate. We do all we can to be certain that our patients receive the highest level of care. Using research and community input, we monitor and adapt our services and priorities to meet the current health needs and concerns of the communities we serve.

Among many others, one area of focus for KishHealth System is Behavioral Health Services. The health system provides a robust outpatient program, with several locations across DeKalb County. We continue to expand this area of service; our Sycamore and Sandwich locations see over 250 patient appointments weekly. Now, with the addition of our providers at KishHealth System Physician Group DeKalb, formerly the DeKalb Clinic, we've increased our visits over 40%, equating to 13,000 patient visits annually at KishHealth System's outpatient behavioral health service locations.

Our behavioral health programming includes psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed social workers, and counselors providing one-on-one care and support groups on a variety of topics. We serve adolescents and young children, adults, couples and families. Additionally, we work with a number of area employers providing EAP programming and education for business leaders and employees. Our



Be Health Empowered.

facilities provide affordable behavioral health care to those in need, accepting Medicaid and self-pay patients, while subsidizing costs through our charity care program.

Recognizing that we have clinical gaps in areas where we can't provide for every need of every patient, KishHealth System takes an active role in finding and coordinating care for patients. Filling these clinical gaps was the primary reason for pursuing an affiliation with Northwestern Memorial HealthCare, allowing us to provide comprehensive services across a single system, while seamlessly coordinating care for patients between inpatient and outpatient care settings.

When specialized care is needed, we make sure it is accessible to our patients. We work with them to remove barriers and sometimes even subsidize the cost of their care. Once part of Northwestern Medicine, our patients can receive care at the expanding inpatient psychiatric care unit at Central DuPage Hospital in Winfield.

Beyond our own programming, KishHealth System financially supports a number of area organizations dedicated to serving the behavioral health needs of our community members. This commitment to mental health services and its associated expenses represent the health system's unwavering dedication to being the cornerstone of healthcare in the communities we serve.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Michael Kulisz, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Michael Kulisz, Jr.

Chief Medical Officer, KishHealth System



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

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Public Hearing Testimony Registration Form

Facility Name: Valley West Community Hospital

Project Number: E-008-15

I. IDENTIFICATION

Name (Please Print) Barry Schrader

City DeKalb State IL Zip 60115

Signature Barry Schrader

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)

DeKalb County Citizens  
for Better Mental  
Health Care

III. POSITION (please circle appropriate position)

Support

Oppose

Neutral

IV. Testimony (please circle)

Oral

Written

9/24/15