



**Hospital Sisters Health System
IHA Transformation Testimony
Senator Syverson
Talking Points
October 3, 2018**

Introduction:

Good afternoon, I am Chris Klay, and I'm proud to serve as President and CEO of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Breese, Illinois. Today, I'm speaking on behalf of many of our downstate, rural hospitals.

As you consider the eligibility criteria for hospitals to receive assessment funding, I encourage you to consider the various ways rural hospitals bring value to the rural populations that they serve.

Access to Specialists through Telemedicine Technology:

- Nearly 29% of the Clinton County population is 55 years of age or over, which drives the need clinical medical specialists in our area. Of particular concern is access to care for low-income and elderly individuals.
- Two key issues impacting patient access to care are functional transportation resources and availability of healthcare providers who accept insurance plans supporting individuals with lower-income values.
- St. Joseph's Hospital has been continuously working to fill the need for additional specialists through telemedicine technology.
- This technology allows patients to receive care close to home instead of being transferred or traveling to larger, tertiary centers.
- Our hospital in Breese offers telemedicine services that connect with physicians at HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital in O'Fallon who assist in evaluating patients presenting with stroke symptoms. When diagnosed quickly, patients receive life-saving treatment in our emergency department and then transfer to our inpatient unit for follow-up care if appropriate. Integrated services at this level allows patients to remain in familiar surroundings; close to family and friends.
- St. Joseph's Hospital also maintains a close partnership with SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Hospital to provide pediatric telemedicine services that bring the expertise of neonatology to our Women and Infants Center. This allows us to provide immediate, real-time consultation and treatment that reduces the need to transfer babies to St. Louis.
- Additional pediatric telemedicine services are also available supporting level II ultrasounds for high-risk pregnancies and pediatric care in our emergency department.

Enhancement of services - Behavioral Health:

- Recent data provided in our tri-annual Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) found that individuals living in the St. Joseph's Hospital-Breese service area demonstrate slightly higher rates of mental illness and certainly have less access to mental health care providers.
- Currently in Clinton County there is one mental health provider for every 3440 residents. The preset state ratio is one mental health provider for every 580 residents.
- Of particular concern is the rising number of opioid-related overdoses.
- According to the Illinois Department of Public Health's report *The Opioid Crisis in Illinois: Data and the State's Response*, in 2016, four people in Clinton County died of opioid-related overdose. The rate of opioid overdose deaths for Illinois was 10.7 per 100,000; in Clinton County the rate was 10.6 per 100,000.
- Like many rural hospitals we are working with their local police departments and EMS services to ensure that Naloxone (Narcan) is available as needed to save lives.
- St. Joseph's Hospital has also have been working on alternative pain management methods and best practices for opioid prescriptions that will be shared with at least two additional regional hospitals outside of Hospital Sisters Health System. Specifically, our ED providers are no longer prescribing opioids to minors without the consent of attending primary care providers.

Outpatient/Ambulatory Services:

- Focused effort of bringing clinical specialists to St. Joseph's Hospital-Breese such as orthopedics, oncology, cardiology, rheumatology, urology, etc.
- St. Joseph's Hospital is committed to providing primary care in a hub and spoke format. Strategically placing primary care clinics in rural communities throughout Clinton County. The goal being to meet consumers where they are at in seeking healthcare.
- Provider recruitment, specifically in the field of primary care, continues to be a challenge for rural communities due to a limited ability to recruit/retain providers in non-metropolitan regions. Continued and additional legislative support for student loan forgiveness programs and reimbursement supporting additional forms of clinical delivery such as telemedicine.

St. Joseph's Hospital Services Supporting the Continuum of Care

Almost Home Program:

- Once patients progress beyond their acute illness but are not yet ready to go home, they are able to remain in our hospital receiving care from familiar providers.
- Rural hospitals provide this care by offering programs such as our Almost Home program providing extended care following major surgery, joint replacement, stroke, injury, extended illness conditions requiring IV antibiotics or nutritional therapy.

- Patients receive skilled care by a team of hospital professionals consisting of Registered Nurses, Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapists.
- Types of rehabilitation offered may focus on Physical Therapy to increase mobility strength and balance; Speech Therapy to assist with speech, memory, swallowing, audiology, and activities of daily living.

Senior Behavioral Health Services:

- HSHS Holy Family Hospital Senior Wellness Unit is an inpatient 10-bed, Medicare-certified service designed to address issues specifically related to individuals 55 years and older.
- This unit is supervised by psychiatrist who evaluates residents for a number of behavioral health issues including but not limited to:
 - Recurrent thoughts of Death and Suicide
 - Personality Changes
 - Confused Thinking and/or Memory Loss
 - Excessive Fears
 - Anxieties or Suspiciousness
 - Withdrawal from others
 - Inability to cope with daily living skills resulting in unsafe behaviors
 - Hallucinations and Delusions
- Hospitals in Breese and Highland also offer an outpatient program, called Senior Renewal, providing service to adults 60 years and older who are dealing with many of the above issues.
- Patients are often assessed in the privacy of their own home where they are most comfortable and then recommended for the appropriate treatment.

HSHS Home Care:

- HSHS Home Care covers 22 counties in the south-central Illinois region offering residents skilled health care in the comfort and privacy of their homes.
- The focus is on the health needs of the individual in a family setting.
- Under the direction of the patient's physician, HSHS Home Care can provide nursing services, PT, Occupational, and Speech Therapy, Medical Social Work, and telehealth services.

Closing:

In closing, I encourage the committee and legislature to consider the inability of rural hospitals to sustain these valuable programs for downstate residents with the current payment structure. Please continue to work with IHA to transform health care delivery and payment.

Other Notes:

HSHS St. Joseph’s Hospital, Breese is a not-for-profit hospital serving predominantly Clinton County, Illinois. Located in south central Illinois, the hospital is the sole acute care hospital in the county.

St. Joseph’s Hospital’s service area is comprised of approximately 503 square miles with a population of approximately 37,760 residents and a population density of 75 people per square mile. The service area consists of the following cities and rural communities: Albers, Aviston, Bartelso, Beckemeyer, Breese, Carlyle, Centralia, Damiansville, Germantown, Hoffman, Huey, Keyesport, New Baden, and Trenton.

| Major Centers & Services | Statistics | New Services & Facilities |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acute Care Hospital• Level II - Nursery• Level III - Emergency Department• Immediate Care 365 – Walk-in clinics in two county locations: Carlyle & New Baden | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total Beds: 70• Total Colleagues: 333• Admissions: 1,282• ED visits: 8,297• Births: 558• Inpatient surgeries: 344• Outpatient surgeries: 2,969• Active Medical <p>Staff: 27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Volunteers: 27,900 service hours | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Outpatient Surgery Center with private entrance and waiting areas for patients and visitors.• Addition of 3D mammography.• Addition of new imaging and fluoroscopy room.• Addition of two orthopedic surgeons to provide services in the specialty clinic.• Addition of |

***Data Sources for Mental Health Discussion**

Report Area: Clinton County

Ratio of Population to Mental Health Providers: 3440:1

VS.

Report Area: Illinois

Ratio of Population to Mental Health Providers: 580:1

Data Source: Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, National Provider Identification, 2016, via the County Health Rankings.
Source geography: County.