

1 HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor

2 Springfield, Illinois 62761

217-782-3516

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4 IN RE: HOSPITAL SISTERS HEALTH SYSTEM, and ST.

ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL OF THE HOSPITAL SISTERS OF THE

5 THIRD ORDER OF ST. FRANCIS

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7 PROJECT 13-034

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PUBLIC HEARING

14

(August 29, 2013)

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16 A Public Hearing in the above-captioned matter

17 was held before the State of Illinois Health

18 Facilities and Services Review Board on August 29,

19 2013, at the City Council Chambers, 101 South

20 Illinois Street, Belleville, Illinois.

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1 PRESENT:

2

3 Meeting Conducted by:

4 Courtney Avery

5

6 ALSO PRESENT: Philip Bradley

7

8 The Court Reporter:

9 Pamela K. Needham, IL CSR, MO CCR

Midwest Litigation Services

10 711 North 11th Street

St. Louis, MO 63101

11 314-644-2191

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (On the record at 6:03 p.m.)

3 MS. COURTNEY AVERY: Good evening, how
4 is everyone. So has everyone had a chance to sign
5 in who's ever going to provide testimony on behalf
6 or in opposition of this project? And if you're
7 not, there's some white sheets where you can record
8 your position. So if, we'll just get started. I
9 cannot find my script, but I'll have it pulled up on
10 the, my laptop before we end with instructions on
11 how to provide additional comments to the project to
12 the State Board, okay?

13 So we'll just get started with a
14 representative from St. Elizabeth's Hospital. And
15 then I'll call you a numerical order.

16 DR. SHELLY HARKINS: Good evening. My
17 name is Dr. Shelly Harkins, I'm the Chief Medical
18 Officer of St. Elizabeth's Hospital. Our CEO and
19 President, Maryann Reese, was unable to attend this
20 evening, and she asked me to read these comments on
21 her half.

22 Ms. Reese writes: I'd like to thank
23 Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
24 Member Philip Bradley for being here this evening,
25 as well as Courtney Avery, the Board's

1 administrator. St. Elizabeth's is pleased to be
2 working with Touchette Regional Hospital to best
3 address current and future needs of behavioral
4 health services patients in the Metro East region.
5 Together, we have developed a plan for a regional
6 mental health center of excellence at Touchette that
7 offers outstanding care for a greater number of
8 patients. The goal of the Center of Excellence is
9 to deliver behavioral health services more
10 efficiently and effectively, provide for easier
11 access to services for all Metro East residents, and
12 to ensure the long-term viability for high quality
13 mental health services in this region. This
14 collaboration represents two health care
15 organizations coming together to better serve our
16 community.

17 My goal tonight is to explain why our
18 plan is good for the Metro East region. I am here
19 to support St. Elizabeth's application for a
20 Certificate of Need to discontinue acute mental
21 health services at St. Elizabeth's. I'd like to let
22 the Review Board know that in our testimony tonight,
23 we are referring to behavioral health care as a way
24 to encompass all the services that will be part of
25 the Center of Excellence - acute inpatient mental

1 health services, addiction treatment, and outpatient
2 services.

3 Please allow me to start with a little
4 history. St. Elizabeth's has provided high quality
5 medical care to Metro East residents since 1875.
6 Today the hospital ministry's purpose remains the
7 same: To care for the sick and needy with a spirit
8 of respect, care, competence and joy. As you know,
9 St. Elizabeth's is located just around the corner on
10 Lincoln Street. At the St. Elizabeth's campus we
11 offer the Southern Illinois Heart Institute, Prime
12 Time Clinic, many primary care and specialty
13 physician offices, a Medical Arts Building, home to
14 the St. Louis University and Scott Air Force Base
15 physician residency program, an Emergency
16 Department, and 338 inpatient beds. We also serve
17 the community with a wide rang of outpatient
18 services, and, of course, a behavioral health care
19 program.

20 We are here tonight to discuss our
21 application, which we believe is the best direction
22 for our community. Tonight you'll hear from people
23 in our community who support St. Elizabeth's
24 application. Our supporters include elected
25 officials, business and community leaders,

1 physicians, and others who care deeply about
2 continuing to provide high quality mental health
3 care for patients in the Metro East region. I would
4 like to thank all of those individuals and others
5 who are with us tonight for your support.

6 Before you hear from those supporters, I
7 will set the stage for them. In recent years, our
8 sponsoring religious organization, Hospital Sisters
9 Health System, or HSHS, and St. Elizabeth's Hospital
10 have been faced with an increasingly difficult
11 dilemma as we fulfill our almost 140-year old
12 mission. How can we sustain this?

13 While St. Elizabeth's behavioral health
14 unit delivers high quality, compassionate care to
15 patients and has been successful in bringing new
16 efficiencies to the program, we've determined that
17 the best way to sustain this vital service to the
18 community was to collaborate with Touchette so
19 behavioral health care could be provided at a Center
20 of Excellence. Without this collaboration, St.
21 Elizabeth's will be unable to effectively sustain
22 the comprehensive behavioral health program it
23 currently provides, and would be unable to expand
24 its program in the future.

25 However, we can continue serving

1 behavioral health patients in our region through a
2 collaboration with Touchette. This ensures the
3 long-term viability of behavioral health care in the
4 region where there are fewer resources available for
5 behavioral health care nationwide. At this time,
6 when fewer and fewer Illinois providers are offering
7 behavioral health services, St. Elizabeth's and
8 Touchette have developed a plan to create a mental
9 health Center of Excellence to offer even more to
10 this vulnerable patient population. The plan will
11 allow Touchette to expand its facility and inpatient
12 beds to better meet the needs of mental health
13 patients in our entire region.

14 Meanwhile, this collaboration with
15 Touchette will allow St. Elizabeth's to be better
16 stewards in directing our resources towards programs
17 that relate directly to the hospital's overall
18 mission of almost 140 years. These include medical,
19 surgical, obstetric, emergency and rehabilitation
20 services. To help make the Center of Excellence a
21 reality, Hospital Sisters Services, Incorporated, a
22 subsidiary of HSHS, will guarantee a \$10 million
23 construction loan to Touchette. The loan will allow
24 Touchette to adequately expand its inpatient
25 behavioral care unit.

1 The support of Touchette's behavioral
2 health expansion from HSHS speaks to our commitment
3 to regional continuity of care, to delivering high
4 quality care, and to living a healing mission. St.
5 Elizabeth's and HSHS will also actively participate
6 in Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation's plan to
7 create a regional access to Healthcare Foundation.
8 Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation, SIHF, will
9 invite regional health care providers to be part of
10 the foundation and create a structure of
11 collaboration on referrals, patient flow, and
12 transitioning patients from Emergency Department to
13 the inpatient behavioral care unit. This regional
14 access to Healthcare Foundation will provide support
15 and guidance to the Regional Mental Health Center of
16 Excellence at Touchette for years to come.

17 St. Elizabeth's, HSHS, Touchette and
18 SIHF have a long standing collaborative relationship
19 on medical care in this region. For example, St.
20 Elizabeth's and SIHF, along with St. Louis
21 University, have worked together to support a family
22 medicine physician residency program since 2006.
23 St. Elizabeth's and HSHS continually invest in
24 health care programs that serve the entire region.
25 For example, in recent years, St. Elizabeth's has

1 made investments in programs, including expanding
2 cardiovascular services, cancer, and
3 stroke/telestroke programs, developing a chronic
4 wound care program utilizing advanced techniques,
5 including hyperbaric oxygen therapy, having an
6 inhouse pediatrician available to respond to
7 pediatric emergencies in the ER, and to high risk
8 deliveries requiring neonatal resuscitation.
9 Implementing an intensivist program where critical
10 care specialists are focused on providing
11 evidence-based care in our ICU, and enhancing fusion
12 services for the Metro East community.

13 In closing, I ask for you to look at the
14 big picture of our region. The Metro East area will
15 be better served by having one strong provider, in
16 this case Touchette, of inpatient mental health
17 services. Currently behavioral health care is
18 fragmented and inconsistent in our region. By
19 bringing community resources together in this smart
20 efficient way, Touchette will be able to invest in
21 physicians and staff to serve our regions's mental
22 health needs for years to come.

23 I ask the Review Board to vote yes to
24 approve our Certificate of Need. Thank you for your
25 time.

1 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: Thank you. And
2 can, as you're speaking, will you please place your
3 numbers and your written script, if you have it, on
4 the table and I'll collect them from there? And
5 also, spell your first and last names for the court
6 reporter for the record.

7 DR. SHELLY HARKINS: Shelly,
8 S-H-E-L-L-Y, Harkins, H-A-R-K-I-N-S.

9 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: Number 2, please?

10 DR. RANDY JUNG: My name is Randy Jung
11 R-A-N-D-Y, J-U-N-G.

12 Hello. My name is Dr. Randy Jung. I am
13 the medical doctor for St. Elizabeth's Hospital, and
14 Department Chair of Psychiatry. I am a board
15 certified psychiatrist who has been practicing for
16 more than 20 years. I stand here this evening in
17 support of the discontinuation of the acute mental
18 illness beds at St. Elizabeth's.

19 I know that we have focused on doing
20 everything that we can to make the program more
21 efficient and sustainable, and I am proud of the
22 excellent care we provide for our behavioral health
23 patients. But we needed to ask ourselves if our
24 current path is really what is in the best interest
25 of patients in the long run. St. Elizabeth's plans

1 to work with Touchette Regional Hospital to help it
2 create a Regional Mental Health Center of Excellence
3 at Touchette are an example of two health care
4 providers coming together to better serve our
5 community. Health care providers create centers of
6 excellence by combining their knowledge to focus on
7 a particular medical specialty.

8 This center will give patients suffering
9 from mental illness and substance abuse quality
10 comprehensive care. It will allow all providers to
11 work together to ensure there are adequate resources
12 to meet the patients' needs. The new center will
13 have 30 inpatient beds available once it is
14 expanded. This is an appropriate number of beds to
15 serve the Metro East inpatient behavioral health
16 needs. Once it's built in about two years,
17 Touchette's Center of Excellence will have enough
18 patients to achieve operational efficiencies and
19 manage costs. This is critical in a time of
20 shrinking health care reimbursements.

21 Care for the acute mentally ill is a
22 long-term core service for Touchette, and having one
23 strong mental health care provider, Touchette, will
24 be good for the region. This is why I ask the
25 Review Board to approve our application.

1 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: Thank you. Number
2 3.

3 MR. BOB WHITE: Bob White, B-O-B,
4 W-H-I-T-E.

5 Hello, my name is Bob White, and it's my
6 honor to serve is an Alderman in Belleville's 6th
7 Ward. I'm here to voice my support of the
8 Certificate of Need application submitted to the
9 State by St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

10 I'm a retired Air Force Chief Master
11 Sergeant and have worked as a medical career field
12 manager in the Air Force. I also have lived in the
13 community for more than 17 years with my wife, who
14 is also a nurse. St. Elizabeth's is located next
15 door to the 6th Ward and Belleville's 5th Ward, I
16 know the hospital very well and can testify to its
17 role as a strong pillar of our community.

18 Over the past several years St.
19 Elizabeth's has contributed millions of dollars in
20 free medical care and health screening to residents
21 of Belleville. Last year St. Elizabeth's
22 educational programs focused on important health
23 care topics, such as stroke prevention and good
24 health -- and good heart health.

25 We are well served to have St.

1 Elizabeth's as a member of our community. However,
2 when it comes to mental and behavior health, I
3 strongly believe that a comprehensive regional
4 approach would make more sense. To that end, I
5 would welcome collaboration between St. Elizabeth's
6 and Touchette Regional Hospital to provide mental
7 and behavioral health to the entire region.

8 I have seen the negative impact of
9 untreated mental health and addiction problems in
10 the communities of St. Louis County, and certainly
11 in Belleville where my constituents reside. The
12 discontinuation of behavioral health services at St.
13 Elizabeth's, coupled with the expansion at
14 Touchette, will address my concern by consolidating
15 services into one cohesive program. It will also
16 allow St. Elizabeth's and Touchette, along with
17 others, to hopefully participate in a collaborative
18 regional behavioral health network that will offer
19 preventive care. The goal is less crime, less
20 addiction, and healthier communities. Touchette --
21 excuse me.

22 Touchette has provided behavioral health
23 services for nearly a century, and has an excellent
24 reputation. Through the consolidation of their
25 programs, these two hospitals will preserve

1 resources and provide the level of mental health
2 care that patients need to heal and turn their lives
3 around. At the same time, inpatient care will
4 remain accessible to the entire region and will no
5 longer be fragmented.

6 In conclusion, I strongly urge the
7 Review Board to approve St. Elizabeth's application
8 and give this collaboration your blessing. Thank
9 you.

10 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: Thank you. Number
11 4.

12 MR. JOSEPH HAYDEN: Joseph W. Hayden,
13 J-O-S-E-P-H, H-A-Y-D-E-N.

14 Good evening, Madam Chairman, citizens.
15 Here to speak, I have a letter that I will turn in
16 to the, to the record, but I'm going to speak, you
17 know, based on summarizing it. This was brought to
18 my attention, ladies and gentlemen, with St.
19 Elizabeth's Hospital staff. I was born in St.
20 Elizabeth's Hospital, I've lived my entire life in
21 the city of Belleville, they were kind enough to
22 bring me in and explain to me exactly what they,
23 their goals and intentions are. And I'm going to
24 kind of go backwards of what my statement says.

25 As I met with the staff people, shared

1 what was going on with my constituent base which I
2 have, there is concerns of, you know, with the past
3 of is this a domino effect of St. Elizabeth's
4 wanting to leave, and it is very clear --

5 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: Can I interrupt?

6 You have to focus on the discontinuation of --

7 MR. JOSEPH HAYDEN: I am, I want to make
8 it very clear that when I spoke to those people,
9 that they made it very clear that this has nothing
10 to do with anything but basically wanting to
11 provide, you know, coverage for these people in a
12 more consolidated effort. And that is the assurance
13 that they gave me, and I wanted to make sure that
14 that was brought out, because that's the constituent
15 base that I'm at.

16 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: Okay.

17 MR. JOSEPH HAYDEN: And as a matter of
18 fact, even more so that was brought out, Madam
19 Chairman, was the fact that by doing this, St.
20 Elizabeth's Hospital and the public needs to know
21 this is going to save \$2 million. And that's \$2
22 million, ladies and gentlemen, that they have put
23 back in as key resources to the hospital
24 administration right down the road to better care
25 for the people that they have cared for, including

1 the people of Belleville and surrounding
2 communities. And if we want to talk about medical
3 care at today's day and age, financial viability is
4 a key factor, and especially in today's down
5 economy.

6 So going backwards in my statement gets
7 to the crux of the matter and the reason that I
8 support them with the above said. We need in this
9 area a collaborative effort to work with these
10 patients to have serious medical and mental and
11 addiction needs, and unfortunately, I would say,
12 ladies and gentlemen, there's not probably anybody
13 in this room that some way or another doesn't know
14 someone or has been touched by someone that has had
15 some kind of serious addiction, mental illness
16 problem. And if we can move this to a consolidated
17 effort down at Touchette and serve those people to
18 the best of their ability, which all citizens in
19 this country deserve, then to me that's a positive
20 step forward not only for the City of Belleville,
21 St. Elizabeth's, but the entire St. Clair County
22 region, and that's why I support this project.
23 Thank you.

24 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: Thank you. Number
25 5.

1 MR. DANA ROSENZWEIG: Dana, D-A-N-A,
2 Rosenzweig, R-O-S-E-N-Z-W-E-I-G. I'm Executive
3 Director of the St. Clair County Mental Health Board
4 and welcome this opportunity. The board serves as
5 the local mental health authority for St. Clair
6 County. We are responsible for planning and
7 allocating for funding for mental health,
8 developmental disabilities, and substance abuse
9 services for our residents. A critical objective of
10 the board is to ensure that all county residents
11 have access to quality mental health services, and
12 for that reason, I support the Certificate of Need
13 application being submitted by St. Elizabeth's
14 Hospital.

15 It's my understanding that approval of
16 the St. Elizabeth's Certificate of Need application
17 would assist in the establishment of a Regional
18 Mental Health Center of Excellence at Touchette
19 Regional Hospital. If established, the center can
20 be expected is to provide consumers with an
21 increased range of programs and services.
22 Currently, the behavioral health services in the
23 Metro East region are inadequate to meet the ever
24 growing need. Continued access to inpatient
25 services is a core service that must be available to

1 meet acute care needs. I believe the expansion of
2 resources at Touchette Regional can address this
3 need and better guarantee the long-term provision of
4 inpatient behavioral health services for the region.

5 In addition, Touchette Regional Hospital
6 has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to providing
7 needed services and has collaborated well with other
8 providers in addressing the needs of consumers and
9 their families. This continued collaboration and
10 involvement of all key community stakeholders will
11 be essential in planning and implementation of
12 expanded access to care. With the State's ongoing
13 financial crisis and the looming implementation of
14 the Affordable Care Act, we need to be prudent with
15 our health care resources. This center is an
16 example of efficient use of health care dollars that
17 could be a prototype for regions throughout the
18 state.

19 In closing, on half of those who are in
20 need of behavioral health services, I would ask that
21 you approve the CON application for St. Elizabeth's
22 Hospital, the resulting expansion of Touchette
23 Regional Hospital will allow more coordinated,
24 sustainable and responsive behavioral health system
25 that can more adequately meet the needs of our

1 county residents. Thank you.

2 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: Thanks. The person
3 that's in opposition of the project? What number
4 are you?

5 DR. MARIA SCARBROUGH: 6.

6 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: Oh, okay. Thank
7 you.

8 DR. MARIA SCARBROUGH: I'm sure I'm not
9 the only one in the entire community that is in
10 opposition, but I'm here representing them tonight.
11 So my name is Dr. Maria Scarbrough, I've lived in
12 Belleville almost my entire life. I, too, was born
13 in St. Elizabeth's. And growing up in this area, I
14 realized there was a great need for physicians, and
15 after medical school, I came back here. I'm
16 currently an ER physician at Belleville Memorial,
17 and as a resident -- sorry, I'm nervous, I'm the
18 only one opposing. I apologize. As a resident of
19 Belleville and ER physician, I'm gravely concerned
20 about the reduction in the number of mental health
21 beds available in our area.

22 In addition, the announcement by Call
23 For Help that they are closing the 24-hour suicide
24 and crisis hotline is a sad loss to our community.
25 This greatly reduces the resources available to our

1 most vulnerable population. But as we know, mental
2 health does not discriminate. We're all affected in
3 some way.

4 With the current mental health capacity
5 in Belleville and Centreville now, we still don't
6 have enough beds. I've already had difficulty
7 finding beds for our mental health patients that
8 come to the ER. Just this week I had a gentleman
9 who was in the ER for 24 hours waiting for a bed.
10 This morning when I left at 4 a.m., I had two
11 patients waiting for placement. The physician at
12 Touchette decided he didn't want to look at the
13 paperwork until 8 a.m. this morning. So as I left
14 at 4 a.m. this morning, I told the nurse: Please
15 call St. Elizabeth's and see if they will take this
16 patient.

17 I'm not sure, but from what I've heard,
18 the decision to move these beds out of our community
19 was done with little input from the community and
20 emergency responders like myself. I think that as a
21 member of this community, it appears to me that the
22 more preparation and planning needs to occur before
23 an already vulnerable and underserved population
24 gets abandoned.

25 In conclusion, a system consisting of

1 numerous hospitals is not fragmented, it gives the
2 members of Millstadt and Freeburg and Smithton and
3 Belleville and Fairview Heights a choice to go where
4 they are most comfortable. Thank you very much.

5 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: Thank you. Number
6 7. Before you begin speaking, is there anyone else
7 that's in opposition or needs a sign-in? You're in
8 opposition?

9 MR. LARRY McCULLEY: Good evening, Larry
10 McCulley, L-A-R-R-Y, M-C-C-U-L-L-E-Y. I am the CEO
11 of Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation and
12 Touchette Regional Hospital. I am here tonight to
13 express my full support for the CON that's been
14 presented forth from St. Elizabeth's Hospital to
15 discontinue their beds. My reason for this support
16 is coupled with the very fact that the development
17 of a Center of Excellence for behavioral health
18 care, and the support from St. Elizabeth's Hospital
19 and their parent corporation, to put forth a
20 guarantee to allow the construction of a \$10 million
21 addition and expansion to our behavioral health unit
22 helps us begin to create a true network of
23 behavioral health services in Southern Illinois.

24 Let me share a little bit about the
25 historical issues that has transpired over the years

1 with behavioral health to give you some light of how
2 we got to the point we are today. St. Mary's
3 hospital operated behavioral health for nearly a
4 century in East St. Louis, Illinois. We assumed
5 ownership of St. Mary's back in 2004, and renamed
6 that facility Kenneth Hall, knowing it was a
7 struggling, a struggling financial institution. We,
8 unfortunately, had to close Kenneth Hall because of
9 those financial struggles that ended our days as an
10 organization. That said, before we closed the
11 behavioral health unit at St. Mary's hospital, we
12 engaged in communication with St. Elizabeth's
13 Hospital about the struggles and needs to assure
14 that there's a continuance of inpatient behavioral
15 health services. During those conversations, we
16 explored the opportunity and worked with the
17 facility's Planning Board and looked at
18 opportunities to actually provide the expanded
19 services as a hospital in a hospital on the campus
20 at St. Elizabeth's. And unfortunately, because of
21 various reasons, we were not able to materialize
22 that opportunity. Subsequently, Touchette Regional
23 Hospital, because of the need to close Kenneth Hall
24 financially, pursued and ultimately opened up a
25 small 12-bed behavioral health unit on our campus in

1 Centreville. However, that didn't stop our desire
2 and need to continually look at how can we further
3 improve not only behavioral health, but expand our
4 role in the behavioral health services. Our
5 discussions with St. Elizabeth's and their parent
6 corporation led us to today where we began looking
7 at the need for a centralized hub for behavioral, a
8 behavioral health Center of Excellence. That Center
9 of Excellence is not only about the \$10 million and
10 the expansion at Touchette from its current 12 beds
11 to 30 beds, but it's also about creating a network
12 of health care services that are coordinated for the
13 betterment of the care for our patients. Inpatient
14 hub that connects and works with emergency rooms
15 throughout Southern Illinois providing on --
16 telemedicine, telepsychiatry counseling and support,
17 consultation. It's about layering in and supporting
18 regional locations for intensive outpatient centers
19 so we can make sure that people who are on discharge
20 can go to an intensive outpatient center and get
21 continued continuity of care so we can help prevent
22 readmissions. It's also the other end where we can
23 help get people into intensive outpatient centers
24 prior to admission so we can help continue to
25 stabilize the needs of the behavioral health

1 patients.

2 We also want to make sure that we create
3 a network that overlays the support of
4 psychiatrists, counselors, and primary care
5 providers, that we can have a true coordinated
6 system of care versus the fragmented structure that
7 often exists today.

8 For these reasons, we believe this is a
9 huge win for Southern Illinois, a huge win for our
10 communities, and a tremendous win for our patients,
11 and with that said, we'd ask for your full support
12 of the CON for St. Elizabeth's to discontinue.

13 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: Thank you. Can
14 you -- thank you. Number 8?

15 MR. PHIL SILSBY: My name is Phil,
16 P-H-I-L, Silsby, S-I-L-S-B-Y. I am a life long
17 resident of the city of Belleville, I'm also a
18 member of the city counselor Alderman for Ward 5,
19 which St. Elizabeth's Hospital is in my ward. I
20 understand the need for collaboration, not
21 necessarily against, you know, that they're wanting
22 to collaborate and do that; my main concern, and
23 it's going to be very short, is this is the
24 beginning of them chipping away and moving out of
25 the city of Belleville. And that is of great

1 concern, because they've been a part of us for many
2 many many years, and they're an important part of
3 our downtown, and they're an important part of it.
4 As was said, I would hate to see people have to
5 travel in this area to different places, so that is
6 the reason that I would oppose it, unless they are
7 committed to staying downtown. Thank you.

8 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: Thank you. Again,
9 I ask that you make sure that your comments are
10 focused on the discontinuation of the 35 AMI beds.
11 Number 9.

12 MR. MARK PETERS: Good evening, I don't
13 have a number, so I'm the 9th.

14 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: Did you sign in?

15 MR. MARK PETERS: I did sign in, yeah.

16 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: What was your name?

17 MR. MARK PETERS: Mark Peters, M-A-R-K,
18 P-E-T-E-R-S, and I'm the director of Community
19 Health for the St. Clair County Health Department.
20 I also serve as the co-convenor for the Health Care
21 Commission for St. Clair County.

22 I'm speaking today in full support of
23 the Certificate of Need application submitted to the
24 state by St. Elizabeth's Hospital, and St.
25 Elizabeth's collaboration with Touchette Regional

1 Hospital to create a Regional Mental Health Center
2 of Excellence. The Health Care Commission is
3 collaborative public health system that mobilizes
4 resources to meet and identify health needs, and
5 promote the health and well-being of all of the
6 residents of St. Clair County. We do this to enable
7 St. Clair County to be among the healthiest counties
8 in America, hopefully by the year 2020.

9 As co-convener of the Commission, I
10 oversee the community health assessment and planning
11 activities for the County's five-year health
12 assessment and planning process administered through
13 the Illinois Department of Public Health's IPLAN
14 certification requirements. The need for improved
15 behavioral health services has long been identified
16 as a priority health issue for St. Clair County by
17 all of the members of the Health Care Commission,
18 and it's currently part of its 2011 through 2016
19 Community Health Plan.

20 The Center of Excellence would
21 accomplish several objectives that have been
22 identified in the county's health plan by ensuring
23 access to behavioral health. This collaboration is
24 forward thinking and focused on offering more and
25 better behavioral health services to St. Clair

1 County residents. It also ensures that this area
2 will have consistent mental health services for many
3 years to come.

4 You know, it's important that we have a
5 strong network of behavioral health care services.
6 In the current system we are splitting our resources
7 among two major providers. The center will have the
8 kind of comprehensive inpatient and outpatient care
9 that patients and their families need. In fact,
10 this type of regional plan for behavioral health
11 care is an example of what the Illinois Department
12 of Public Health has said it would like to see more
13 of throughout the state.

14 I'm very encouraged to see St.
15 Elizabeth's and Touchette working together to do
16 what is in the best interest of Metro East area
17 residents, and I hope you will join me in supporting
18 this Certificate of Need. Thank you.

19 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: Thank you. Okay,
20 now Number 9?

21 MS. SULBRENA DAY: Hi, I am Sulbrena
22 Day, S-U-L-B-R-E-N-A, D-A-Y last name. I would like
23 to thank you for the opportunity for me to present
24 in strong support of St. Elizabeth's Hospital CON
25 request. I am a Vice-president of Ancillary

1 Services at Touchette Regional Hospital. I have the
2 administrative leadership responsibilities for
3 behavioral health services. I have worked in the
4 health care profession for 39 years. Over the past
5 years I have observed a myriad of changes in health
6 care reimbursement and delivery of services. Impact
7 from many of the changes was St. Mary's Hospital,
8 the closure of Kenneth Hall Regional Hospital,
9 reduction in mental health community services, and
10 the downsizing of state operated mental health
11 hospital beds.

12 Particularly the delivery of mental
13 health services in my experience has changed
14 significantly. I have participated in various
15 communities at the state and local level to develop
16 strategies to build a strong mental health system.
17 Many of the strategies that were discussed had been
18 implemented in the past, but not favorably supported
19 that led to longevity and program viability in the
20 midst of shrinking budgets. With limited mental
21 health resources, there was a burden placed on the
22 local community hospitals to develop long-term
23 strategies. I find that the need for mental health
24 services is still essential, and by designing a
25 model that specializes in these services is a great

1 opportunity for this region.

2 Therefore, due to the reconfiguration of
3 mental health services over the past years and the
4 need to design a sustainable model, it is great to
5 see the local hospitals taking the lead and coming
6 together to establish a workable solution.

7 I'm excited that St. Elizabeth's
8 Hospital and Touchette Regional Hospital have agreed
9 it collaborate and to build a sustainable mental
10 health delivery model. Establishing a mental health
11 delivery model that will serve this region and bring
12 together the strength of a group of qualified
13 professionals and staff between the two
14 organizations to serve the needs of the mental
15 health population is vital. Having a delivery model
16 operating from one central location will help to
17 improve access to mental health services, improve
18 input and improve patient outcomes.

19 I appreciate your time and request your
20 consideration to approve St. Elizabeth's Hospital's
21 CON. Thank you.

22 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: Thank you. 10.

23 DR. TOM MIKKELSON: Good evening. I'm
24 Tom Mikkelson, M-I-K-K-E-L-S-O-N. And I'm a family
25 physician, and I'm also the COO and BPMA at

1 Touchette. And St. Elizabeth's and Touchette have
2 been working basically for years on many issues
3 having to do with behavioral health. And some of
4 those came about as we were studying issues that we
5 had between facilities. And sometimes we would run
6 into things with emergency rooms, with transfers of
7 patients, with involuntary admissions, and all of
8 those things became part of our discussions in going
9 forward, and how do we solve these and how do we,
10 how do we break through these issues.

11 Now beds are only one, one part of the
12 behavioral health situation. Emergency rooms --
13 emergency rooms certainly have a, have a play, as do
14 all of the systems that we have from picking up the
15 patients out of the site and our prehospital care.
16 The hospital care that comes, emerges inside the
17 emergency room, that we actually get the patient to
18 the first available place to be assessed, and that
19 emergent conditions be taken care of such as high
20 blood pressure, or it could be a stroke, sometimes
21 it's a medication, sometimes it's an overdose. All
22 of these are medical conditions that can be cared
23 for, and then we can get around to the behavioral
24 health issues.

25 We talked about the interfaces that we

1 have at all of those places, and how do we better
2 solve some of those things. We talked about the
3 fact that we don't have enough clinicians to
4 adequately cover everything that we need to do, and
5 the fact is we're going to need allied health
6 practitioners, we're going to need other
7 behavioralists, we're going to need psychologists,
8 and we're going to have to figure out how to most
9 effectively utilize those. The close collaboration
10 that we would have by expanding our current
11 opportunity a 30-bed size and having the latest
12 methodologies and the methods, I mean and the latest
13 building standards working to our favor, as well,
14 will make this job easier.

15 This collaboration has been one of
16 growth for both of our organizations, it has brought
17 about excitement between the two behavioral health
18 merging areas, and I really think it allows us to
19 finally study the behavioral health issues and
20 determine what some of these root causes are and how
21 we help them.

22 Involuntary admissions have de-- have
23 decreased the court aspects dramatically since we
24 started looking at that as an issue. As a matter of
25 fact, of the involuntary admissions to our facility,

1 roughly 80 percent of them or more now become
2 voluntary within a three-day stay, and that has
3 dramatically reduced the issues for the courts.

4 I think that this collaboration has been
5 good, we need to continue to expand the
6 collaboration with the emergency rooms, with other
7 facilities, and look at these issues long-term. We
8 need to look at the IOP, the intensive outpatient
9 programs, on an adolescent basis, on an adult basis,
10 as a route for decreasing the admissions. It's been
11 very successful for us, and it's allowed us to
12 decrease our length of stay in our facilities.

13 We believe that we can do this better
14 together, decreasing resource utilization and
15 lowering costs over the long-term, and I highly
16 recommend that we go forward with this and that we
17 approve St. Elizabeth's CON. Thank you.

18 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: Thank you. Number
19 11.

20 MR. DEAN HARDT: Good evening, my name
21 is Dean, D-E-A-N, Hardt, H-A-R-D-T. I speak to you
22 as a resident of the City of Belleville. My
23 comments both directly and indirectly address the
24 CON request that is before us today.

25 As a resident of the City of Belleville,

1 I am concerned that this Certificate of Need
2 request, if approved, is a precursor to the request
3 of vacating their current facilities and relocating
4 to a new location outside our city.

5 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: Again, you're going
6 to focus on the --

7 MR. DEAN HARDT: Certificate -- also, if
8 the Certificate of Need request is approved, the
9 services provided to our residents will be reduced
10 whereby making these services and their, less
11 accessible to local residents and their families.
12 As the largest community south of Springfield,
13 Illinois, our residents should have these services
14 in close proximity to their residence. However, I
15 would reluctantly support such a request if there
16 was some agreement or understanding that could be
17 created assuring this community that the requester
18 is committed to continuing its health care services
19 to the city, and also ensuring that, if approved,
20 our residents will receive the same quality of
21 behavioral health care they receive today from the
22 requester. Thank you.

23 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: Thank you. Number
24 12?

25 MR. BRIAN FLYNN: Hi, my name is Brian

1 Flynn, Brian, B-R-I-A-N, Flynn, F-L-Y-N-N. I'm also
2 a life long resident of the city of Belleville. I,
3 my church is across the street from St. Elizabeth's,
4 the school I went to for nine years is just a block
5 down the street, so obviously this is an area of
6 great concern for me. Additionally, I also had a
7 family member who has been, who has received mental
8 health services at St. Elizabeth's. So it's really
9 important to me.

10 I'm looking at the Touchette Regional
11 Hospital website right now, and they said that they
12 serve the Metro East communities of Alorton,
13 Cahokia, Centreville, East St. Louis, and Washington
14 Park, along with the surrounding regions. I'm also
15 looking at an editorial May 6, 2012, of the St.
16 Louis Post Dispatch, and it quotes Steven
17 Wiggington, our US attorney, as describing East St.
18 Louis, the nearby communities of Alorton, Brooklyn,
19 and Washington Park as America's war zone.

20 I agree with what the many professionals
21 have said here tonight about collaboration,
22 conserving of resources, it is really all about
23 serving the needs of the community and the
24 residents. My concern is that it be an area where
25 it is accessible, where people will go. I can tell

1 you that my family, we probably wouldn't have taken
2 our family member to America's war zone to receive
3 services, and I think that's an area of great
4 concern, and I would hope that the board would take
5 that into consideration. Thank you.

6 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: Thank you. 13.

7 MR. MARK REIFSTECK: Mark Reifsteck,
8 M-A-R-K, R-E-I-F-S-T-E-C-K.

9 Good evening, my name is Mark Reifsteck,
10 I'm the division president and CEO of Hospital
11 Sisters Health Systems Southern Division. My
12 division includes St. Elizabeth's Hospital in
13 Belleville, in addition to three other facilities,
14 and my comments will be very brief.

15 First, I'd like to thank all of the
16 people who came here to show their support for the
17 St. Elizabeth's Hospital Certificate of Need
18 application. We have many leaders describe their
19 reasons why they are in support of this, and there
20 was also other folks that signed in that will, that
21 did not give oral testimony also in support of our
22 project, and we're deeply grateful for your -- for
23 that support. I, too, am concerned about access to
24 care, and one of the underlying elements that is
25 involved in our planning for this Regional Center of

1 Excellence has to do with what our current average
2 daily census is at both of our locations. Touchette
3 Regional runs an average daily census for acute
4 mental illness patients of about 8 on average, they
5 have a license to have 12, run on average about 8.
6 St. Elizabeth's runs on average about 18. We're
7 licensed for quite a bit more than that, but on
8 average around 18, due to the demands for the
9 service. So that's an average daily census between
10 the two facilities of about 26.

11 The application for that Touchette is
12 pretty forward to expand their services is for 30
13 beds, and the target utilization rate is at 85
14 percent, which would mean an average daily census of
15 about 26 patients, which is exactly what we have
16 today. So we do believe that our, closing the St.
17 Elizabeth's site and Touchette expanding their site
18 will meet the needs of the community into the
19 future.

20 So in closing, St. Elizabeth's is
21 working with Touchette Regional Hospital to make
22 sure all Metro East residents have better access for
23 comprehensive, high quality behavioral health care.
24 When it's complete in about 2 years, the Regional
25 Medical Health Center of Excellence at Touchette

1 will offer outstanding care for a greater number of
2 patients. It will ensure the long-term viability
3 for high quality mental health services in the
4 region. Hospital Sisters Services, a subsidiary of
5 the parent organization of St. Elizabeth's, Hospital
6 Sisters Health System, is willing to make a
7 guarantee of a \$10 million construction loan to
8 Touchette in order to make this expansion possible,
9 and St. Elizabeth's and HSHS will also actively
10 participate in the Southern Illinois Healthcare
11 Foundation's plan to create a regional access to
12 Healthcare Foundation. That foundation will provide
13 support and guidance to the Regional Mental Health
14 Center of Excellence at Touchette for years to come.
15 I ask the Review Board to approve our Certificate of
16 Need. Thank you.

17 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: Thank you.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Ms. Avery, are
19 there any more speakers?

20 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: There are. Shelly
21 Harkins, Randy Jung, and David L-Y-S-A-K-O-W-S-K-I.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right, and I
23 believe in the interest of time, our plan was to
24 simply hand in statements.

25 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: Okay.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Of those
2 speakers, and there are maybe other individuals, as
3 well, who didn't sign the green sheets but have
4 prepared statements that they might like to hand in
5 if they could just put them on the table.

6 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: Okay.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Although I'm sure
8 you'd love to stay here longer, but we're willing to
9 do that in the interest of time.

10 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: And Christopher
11 Loynd and Shelley M. Monheiser.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, and I have
13 some of those statements, but other people, if you
14 want to hand in your statements if you have them.

15 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: Can you, is -- are
16 there more sheets back there? Can you just have
17 them to fill them out?

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, absolutely.

19 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: So, and just circle
20 support or oppose in written comment.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

22 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: Is that fair?

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Fill out the
24 green sheets you mean?

25 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: Yes, just for our

1 record.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I know they
3 filled out white sheets, but...

4 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: Oh, they did a
5 white one?

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

7 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: Okay, I'll just
8 change it and coordinate it to those.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay, thank you.

10 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: All right. Is
11 there anyone else who wishes to testify who has not
12 had an opportunity?

13 (No response.)

14 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: All right, hearing
15 none, is there anyone else who has testified who
16 wishes to provide additional testimony?

17 (No response.)

18 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: Okay. Please note
19 that this project is tentatively scheduled for
20 consideration by the State Board at its September
21 4th meeting. That meeting will be held in
22 Springfield, Illinois, at the Steakhouse Inn located
23 at 101 East Adams Street. I ask that you refer to
24 the Board's website for more details and a possible
25 agenda change. Also, I ask that you note that the

1 public has until 9 a.m. on Wednesday, September 4th,
2 to submit written comments pertaining to this
3 project. Comments can be sent to the attention of
4 Courtney Avery, Administrator, Illinois Health
5 Facility and Services Review Board, 525 West
6 Jefferson Street, Second Floor, Springfield,
7 Illinois, 62761-0001. You may also fax your
8 comments to 217-785-4111. And for your record, the
9 Board's website is www.HFSRB.Illinois.GOV.

10 The state agency reports will be made
11 available on the website on Tuesday, September 10th.
12 Written responses to the content of the report
13 findings will be accepted by the State Board until 9
14 a.m. on Friday, September 13th. Those written
15 responses should also be sent to the attention of
16 Courtney Avery. I'm sorry, did I say September
17 10th?

18 MR. PHILIP BRADLEY: You did.

19 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: Okay. Are there
20 any other questions?

21 MR. DEAN HARDT: Could you confirm the
22 meeting of the board, or is it the 4th or the 24th?

23 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: The 4th. I'm
24 sorry, the 24th. Thank you. I had to write this
25 off from the top of my head. Yes, thank you.

1 September 24th.

2 MR. DEAN HARDT: Thank you.

3 MR. COURTNEY AVERY: I apologize for
4 that. Any other questions?

5 Okay. Hearing that there are no
6 additional questions or comments, I deem this public
7 hearing adjourned, and I would like to thank
8 Mr. Bradley for attending. Thank you. Have a good
9 evening everyone.

10 (Hearing adjourned at 6:53 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Pamela K. Needham, Certified Court Reporter,
Notary Public within and for the State of Illinois,
do certify that the proceedings in the
above-entitled cause were taken by me to the best of
my ability and thereafter reduced to typewriting
under my direction; that I am neither counsel for,
related to, nor employed by any of the parties to
the action, and further, that I am not a relative or
employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the
parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise
interested in the outcome of the action.



Notary Public within and for
the State of Illinois

<p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <p>abandoned 20:24</p> <p>ability 16:18 42:7</p> <p>able 9:20 22:21</p> <p>above-captioned 1:16</p> <p>above-entitled 42:6</p> <p>absolutely 38:18</p> <p>abuse 11:9 17:8</p> <p>accepted 40:13</p> <p>access 4:11 8:7 8:14 17:11,24 18:12 26:23 29:17 35:23 36:22 37:11</p> <p>accessible 14:4 33:11 34:25</p> <p>accomplish 26:21</p> <p>achieve 11:18</p> <p>Act 18:14</p> <p>action 42:10,13</p> <p>actively 8:5 37:9</p> <p>activities 26:11</p> <p>acute 4:20,25 10:17 11:21 18:1 36:3</p> <p>Adams 39:23</p> <p>addiction 5:1 13:9,20 16:11 16:15</p> <p>addition 18:5 19:22 21:21 35:13</p> <p>additional 3:11 39:16 41:6</p> <p>Additionally 34:6</p> <p>address 4:3 13:14 18:2 32:23</p> <p>addressing 18:8</p> <p>adequate 11:11</p> <p>adequately 7:24</p>	<p>18:25 31:4</p> <p>adjourned 41:7 41:10</p> <p>administered 26:12</p> <p>administration 15:24</p> <p>administrative 28:2</p> <p>administrator 4:1 40:4</p> <p>admission 23:24</p> <p>admissions 30:7 31:22,25 32:10</p> <p>adolescent 32:9</p> <p>adult 32:9</p> <p>advanced 9:4</p> <p>Affordable 18:14</p> <p>age 16:3</p> <p>agency 40:10</p> <p>agenda 39:25</p> <p>agree 34:20</p> <p>agreed 29:8</p> <p>agreement 33:16</p> <p>Air 5:14 12:10,12</p> <p>Alderman 12:6 24:18</p> <p>allied 31:5</p> <p>allocating 17:7</p> <p>allow 5:3 7:11,15 7:23 11:10 13:16 18:23 21:20</p> <p>allowed 32:11</p> <p>allows 31:18</p> <p>Alorton 34:12,18</p> <p>America 26:8</p> <p>America's 34:19 35:2</p> <p>AMI 25:10</p> <p>Ancillary 27:25</p> <p>announcement 19:22</p> <p>anybody 16:12</p> <p>apologize 19:18 41:3</p>	<p>appears 20:21</p> <p>application 4:19 5:21,24 11:25 12:8 14:7 17:13 17:16 18:21 25:23 35:18 36:11</p> <p>appreciate 29:19</p> <p>approach 13:4</p> <p>appropriate 11:14</p> <p>approval 17:15</p> <p>approve 9:24 11:25 14:7 18:21 29:20 32:17 37:15</p> <p>approved 33:2,8 33:19</p> <p>area 9:14 16:9 19:13,21 25:5 27:1,16 34:5,24 35:3</p> <p>areas 31:18</p> <p>Arts 5:13</p> <p>asked 3:20</p> <p>aspects 31:23</p> <p>assessed 30:18</p> <p>assessment 26:10 26:12</p> <p>assist 17:17</p> <p>assumed 22:4</p> <p>assurance 15:12</p> <p>assure 22:13</p> <p>assuring 33:17</p> <p>attend 3:19</p> <p>attending 41:8</p> <p>attention 14:18 40:3,15</p> <p>attorney 34:17 42:11</p> <p>August 1:14,18</p> <p>authority 17:5</p> <p>available 7:4 9:6 11:13 17:25 19:21,25 30:18 40:11</p>	<p>average 36:1,3,4 36:5,6,8,9,14</p> <p>Avery 2:4 3:3,25 10:1,9 12:1 14:10 15:5,16 16:24 19:2,6 21:5 24:13 25:8 25:14,16 27:19 29:22 32:18 33:5,23 35:6 37:17,18,20,25 38:6,10,15,19 38:22,25 39:4,7 39:10,14,18 40:4,16,19,23 41:3</p> <p>a.m 20:10,13,14 40:1,14</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">B</p> <p>back 15:23 19:15 22:5 38:16</p> <p>backwards 14:24 16:6</p> <p>base 5:14 15:1,15</p> <p>based 14:17</p> <p>basically 15:10 30:2</p> <p>basis 32:9,9</p> <p>bed 20:9</p> <p>beds 5:16 7:12 10:18 11:13,14 19:21 20:6,7,18 21:15 23:10,11 25:10 28:11 30:11 36:13</p> <p>began 23:6</p> <p>beginning 24:24</p> <p>behalf 3:5</p> <p>behavior 13:2</p> <p>behavioral 4:3,9 4:23 5:18 6:13 6:19,22 7:1,3,5 7:7,25 8:1,13 9:17 10:22 11:15 13:7,12</p>	<p>13:18,22 17:22 18:4,20,24 21:17,21,23 22:1,3,11,14,25 23:3,4,7,8,25 26:15,23,25 27:5,10 28:3 30:3,12,23 31:17,19 33:21 36:23</p> <p>behavioralists 31:7</p> <p>believe 5:21 13:3 18:1 24:8 32:13 36:16 37:23</p> <p>Belleville 1:20 12:21 13:11 14:21 16:1,20 19:12,16,19 20:5 21:3 24:17 24:25 32:22,25 34:2 35:13</p> <p>Belleville's 12:6 12:15</p> <p>best 4:2 5:21 6:17 10:24 16:18 27:16 42:6</p> <p>better 4:15 7:12 7:15 9:15 11:4 15:24 18:3 26:25 31:1 32:13 36:22</p> <p>betterment 23:13</p> <p>big 9:14</p> <p>bit 21:24 36:7</p> <p>blissing 14:8</p> <p>block 34:4</p> <p>blood 30:20</p> <p>board 1:1,18 3:12,23 4:22 9:23 10:14 11:25 14:7 17:3 17:4,10 22:17 35:4 37:15 39:20 40:5,13</p>
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40:22 Board's 3:25 39:24 40:9 Bob 12:3,3,5 born 14:19 19:12 BPMA 29:25 Bradley 2:6 3:24 40:18 41:8 break 30:10 Brian 33:25,25 34:1 brief 35:14 bring 14:22 29:11 bringing 6:15 9:19 Brooklyn 34:18 brought 14:17 15:14,18 31:16 budgets 28:20 build 28:16 29:9 building 5:13 31:13 built 11:16 burden 28:21 business 5:25 B-O-B 12:3 B-R-I-A-N 34:1	10:22 11:3,5,10 11:20,21,23 12:20,23 13:19 14:2,3 15:24 16:3 18:1,12,14 18:15,16 21:18 23:12,13,21 24:4,6 25:20 26:2,17 27:5,8 27:11 28:4,6 30:15,16,19 33:18,21 35:24 36:23 37:1 cared 15:25 30:22 career 12:11 case 9:16 cause 42:6 causes 31:20 CCR 2:9 census 36:2,3,9 36:14 center 4:6,8,25 6:19 7:9,20 8:15 11:2,8,12 11:17 17:18,19 18:15 21:17 23:8,8,20 26:1 26:20 27:7 35:25 36:25 37:14 centers 11:5 23:18,23 central 29:16 centralized 23:7 Centreville 20:5 23:1 34:13 century 13:23 22:4 CEO 3:18 21:10 35:10 certainly 13:10 30:13 Certificate 4:20 9:24 12:8 17:12 17:16 25:23	27:18 33:1,7,8 35:17 37:15 42:1 certification 26:14 certified 10:15 42:3 certify 42:5 Chair 10:14 Chairman 14:14 15:19 Chambers 1:19 chance 3:4 change 39:8,25 changed 28:13 changes 28:5,7 Chief 3:17 12:10 chipping 24:24 choice 21:3 Christopher 38:10 chronic 9:3 church 34:3 circle 38:19 citizens 14:14 16:18 city 1:19 14:21 16:20 24:17,18 24:25 32:22,25 33:4,19 34:2 Clair 16:21 17:3 17:5 25:19,21 26:6,7,16,25 clear 15:4,8,9 Clinic 5:12 clinicians 31:3 close 22:8,23 31:9 33:14 closed 22:10 closing 9:13 18:19 19:23 36:16,20 closure 28:8 cohesive 13:15 collaborate 6:18 24:22 29:9	collaborated 18:7 collaboration 4:14 6:20 7:2 7:14 8:11 13:5 14:8 18:9 24:20 25:25 26:23 31:9,15 32:4,6 34:21 collaborative 8:18 13:17 16:9 26:3 collect 10:4 combining 11:6 come 8:16 9:22 20:8 27:3 37:14 comes 13:2 30:16 comfortable 21:4 coming 4:15 11:4 29:5 comment 38:20 comments 3:11 3:20 25:9 32:23 35:14 40:2,3,8 41:6 Commission 25:21 26:2,9,17 commitment 8:2 18:6 committed 25:7 33:18 communication 22:12 communities 13:10,20 16:2 24:10 28:15 34:12,18 community 4:16 5:17,22,23,25 6:18 9:12,19 11:5 12:13,17 13:1 18:10 19:9 19:24 20:18,19 20:21 25:18 26:10,19 28:9 28:22 33:12,17	34:23 36:18 compassionate 6:14 competence 5:8 complete 36:24 comprehensive 6:22 11:10 13:3 27:8 36:23 CON 18:21 21:13 24:12 27:24 29:21 32:17,24 concern 13:14 24:22 25:1 34:6 34:24 35:4 concerned 19:19 33:1 35:23 concerns 15:2 conclusion 14:6 20:25 conditions 30:19 30:22 Conducted 2:3 confirm 40:21 connects 23:14 conserving 34:22 consideration 29:20 35:5 39:20 consistent 27:2 consisting 20:25 consolidated 15:12 16:16 consolidating 13:14 consolidation 13:24 constituent 15:1 15:14 constituents 13:11 construction 7:23 21:20 37:7 consultation 23:17 consumers 17:20 18:8
C				
C 3:1 Cahokia 34:13 call 3:15 19:22 20:15 campus 5:10 22:19,25 cancer 9:2 capacity 20:4 cardiovascular 9:2 care 4:7,14,23 5:5,7,8,12,18 6:1,3,14,19 7:3 7:5,25 8:3,4,9 8:13,19,24 9:4 9:10,11,17				

<p>content 40:12 continually 8:23 23:2 continuance 22:14 continue 6:25 23:24 32:5 continued 17:24 18:9 23:21 continuing 6:2 33:18 continuity 8:3 23:21 contributed 12:19 conversations 22:15 COO 29:25 coordinate 39:8 coordinated 18:23 23:12 24:5 core 11:22 17:25 corner 5:9 corporation 21:19 23:6 costs 11:19 32:15 Council 1:19 counsel 42:8,11 counseling 23:16 counselor 24:18 counselors 24:4 counties 26:7 country 16:19 county 13:10 16:21 17:3,6,10 19:1 25:19,21 26:6,7,16 27:1 county's 26:11 26:22 coupled 13:13 21:16 course 5:18 court 2:8 10:5 31:23 42:3 Courtney 2:4 3:3</p>	<p>3:25 10:1,9 12:1 14:10 15:5 15:16 16:24 19:2,6 21:5 24:13 25:8,14 25:16 27:19 29:22 32:18 33:5,23 35:6 37:17,20,25 38:6,10,15,19 38:22,25 39:4,7 39:10,14,18 40:4,16,19,23 41:3 courts 32:3 cover 31:4 coverage 15:11 co-convener 26:9 co-convenor 25:20 create 7:8 8:7,10 11:2,5 21:22 24:2 26:1 37:11 created 33:17 creating 23:11 crime 13:19 crisis 18:13 19:24 critical 9:9 11:19 17:9 crux 16:7 CSR 2:9 current 4:3 10:24 20:4 23:10 27:6 31:10 33:3 36:1 currently 6:23 9:17 17:22 19:16 26:18</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">D</p> <hr/> <p>D 3:1 daily 36:2,3,9,14 Dana 17:1,1 David 37:21 day 16:3 27:21 27:22 days 22:9</p>	<p>de 31:22 Dean 32:20,21 33:7 40:21 41:2 decided 20:12 decision 20:18 decrease 32:12 decreased 31:23 decreasing 32:10 32:14 deem 41:6 deeply 6:1 35:22 deliver 4:9 deliveries 9:8 delivering 8:3 delivers 6:14 delivery 28:6,12 29:10,11,15 demands 36:8 demonstrated 18:6 Department 5:16 8:12 10:14 25:19 26:13 27:11 describe 35:18 describing 34:17 deserve 16:19 design 29:4 designing 28:24 desire 23:1 details 39:24 determine 31:20 determined 6:16 develop 28:15,22 developed 4:5 7:8 developing 9:3 development 21:16 developmental 17:8 different 25:5 difficult 6:10 difficulty 20:6 dilemma 6:11 directing 7:16</p>	<p>direction 5:21 42:8 directly 7:17 32:23 director 17:3 25:18 disabilities 17:8 discharge 23:19 discontinuation 10:17 13:12 15:6 25:10 discontinue 4:20 21:15 24:12 discriminate 20:2 discuss 5:20 discussed 28:17 discussions 23:5 30:8 Dispatch 34:16 division 35:10,11 35:12 doctor 10:13 doing 10:19 15:19 dollars 12:19 18:16 domino 15:3 door 12:15 downsizing 28:10 downtown 25:3,7 Dr 3:16,17 10:7 10:10,12 19:5,8 19:11 29:23 dramatically 31:23 32:3 due 29:2 36:8 D-A-N-A 17:1 D-A-Y 27:22 D-E-A-N 32:21</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <hr/> <p>E 3:1,1 easier 4:10 31:14 East 4:4,11,18</p>	<p>5:5 6:3 9:12,14 11:15 17:23 22:4 27:16 34:12,13,17 36:22 39:23 economy 16:5 editorial 34:15 educational 12:22 effect 15:3 effectively 4:10 6:21 31:9 efficiencies 6:16 11:18 efficient 9:20 10:21 18:16 efficiently 4:10 effort 15:12 16:9 16:17 elected 5:24 elements 35:24 Elizabeth's 1:4 3:14,18 4:1,19 4:21 5:4,9,10 5:23 6:9,13,21 7:7,15 8:5,17 8:20,23,25 10:13,18,25 12:9,14,19,21 13:1,5,13,16 14:7,19,20 15:3 15:20 16:21 17:13,16 18:21 19:13 20:15 21:14,18 22:12 22:20 23:5 24:12,19 25:24 25:25 27:15,24 29:7,20 30:1 32:17 34:3,8 35:12,17 36:6 36:17,20 37:5,9 emergencies 9:7 emergency 5:15 7:19 8:12 20:20 23:14 30:6,12</p>
--	---	--	---	--

<p>30:13,17 32:6 emergent 30:19 emerges 30:16 employed 42:9 42:11 employee 42:11 enable 26:6 encompass 4:24 encouraged 27:14 ended 22:9 engaged 22:12 enhancing 9:11 ensure 4:12 11:11 17:10 37:2 ensures 7:2 27:1 ensuring 26:22 33:19 entire 7:13 8:24 13:7 14:4,20 16:21 19:9,12 ER 9:7 19:16,19 20:8,9 especially 16:4 essential 18:11 28:24 establish 29:6 established 17:19 Establishing 29:10 establishment 17:17 evening 3:3,16 3:20,24 10:16 14:14 21:9 25:12 29:23 32:20 35:9 41:9 evidence-based 9:11 exactly 14:22 36:15 example 8:19,25 11:3 18:16 27:11 excellence 4:6,8</p>	<p>4:25 6:20 7:9 7:20 8:16 11:2 11:6,17 17:18 21:17 23:8,9 26:2,20 36:1,25 37:14 excellent 10:22 13:23 excited 29:7 excitement 31:17 excuse 13:21 Executive 17:2 exists 24:7 expand 6:23 7:11 7:24 23:3 32:5 36:12 expanded 11:14 18:12 22:18 expanding 9:1 31:10 36:17 expansion 8:2 13:13 18:1,22 21:21 23:10 37:8 expected 17:20 experience 28:13 explain 4:17 14:22 explored 22:16 express 21:13</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">F</p> <hr/> <p>faced 6:10 facilities 1:1,18 3:23 30:5 32:7 32:12 33:3 35:13 36:10 facility 7:11 22:6 31:25 40:5 facility's 22:17 fact 15:18,19 21:16 27:9 31:3 31:5,25 factor 16:4 fair 38:22 Fairview 21:3</p>	<p>families 18:9 27:9 33:11 family 8:21 29:24 34:7 35:1,2 favor 31:13 favorably 28:18 fax 40:7 fewer 7:4,6,6 field 12:11 figure 31:8 fill 38:17,23 filled 39:3 finally 31:19 financial 16:3 18:13 22:7,9 financially 22:24 42:12 find 3:9 28:23 finding 20:7 findings 40:13 first 10:5 30:18 35:15 five-year 26:11 Floor 1:1 40:6 flow 8:11 Flynn 33:25 34:1 34:1 focus 11:6 15:6 33:6 focused 9:10 10:19 12:22 25:10 26:24 folks 35:20 Force 5:14 12:10 12:12 forth 21:14,19 forward 16:20 26:24 30:9 32:16 36:12 foundation 8:7,8 8:10,14 21:11 37:12,12 Foundation's 8:6 37:11 fragmented 9:18 14:5 21:1 24:6</p>	<p>FRANCIS 1:5 free 12:20 Freeburg 21:2 Friday 40:14 fulfill 6:11 full 21:13 24:11 25:22 funding 17:7 further 23:2 42:10 fusion 9:11 future 4:3 6:24 36:19 F-L-Y-N-N 34:1</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">G</p> <hr/> <p>G 3:1 gentleman 20:8 gentlemen 14:18 15:22 16:12 give 11:8 14:8 22:1 35:21 gives 21:1 go 14:24 21:3 23:20 32:16 34:25 goal 4:8,17 13:19 goals 14:23 going 3:5 14:16 14:23 15:1,21 16:6 24:23 30:8 31:5,6,7,8 33:5 good 3:3,16 4:18 11:24 12:23,24 14:14 21:9 25:12 29:23 32:5,20 35:9 41:8 grateful 35:22 gravely 19:19 great 19:14 24:25 28:25 29:4 34:6 35:3 greater 4:7 37:1 greatly 19:25 green 38:3,24</p>	<p>group 29:12 growing 17:24 19:13 growth 31:16 guarantee 7:22 18:3 21:20 37:7 guidance 8:15 37:13</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">H</p> <hr/> <p>half 3:21 18:19 Hall 22:6,8,23 28:8 hand 37:24 38:4 38:14 Hardt 32:20,21 33:7 40:21 41:2 Harkins 3:16,17 10:7,8 37:21 hate 25:4 Hayden 14:12,12 15:7,17 head 40:25 heal 14:2 healing 8:4 health 1:1,4,17 3:23 4:4,6,9,13 4:14,21,23 5:1 5:18 6:2,9,13 6:19,22 7:1,3,5 7:7,9,12 8:2,9 8:15,24 9:16,17 9:22 10:22 11:2 11:3,5,15,20,23 12:20,22,24,24 13:2,7,9,12,18 13:22 14:1 17:3 17:5,7,11,18,22 18:4,15,16,20 18:24 19:20 20:2,4,7 21:17 21:21,23 22:1,3 22:11,15,25 23:3,4,8,12,25 25:19,19,20 26:1,2,3,4,5,10</p>
---	---	---	---	--

<p>26:11,15,16,17 26:19,22,23,25 27:2,5,10,12 28:3,4,5,9,10 28:13,16,21,23 29:3,10,10,15 29:17 30:3,12 30:24 31:5,17 31:19 33:18,21 34:8 35:11 36:23,25 37:3,6 37:13 40:4 Healthcare 8:6,7 8:8,14 21:11 37:10,12 healthier 13:20 healthiest 26:7 Health's 26:13 hear 5:22 6:6 heard 20:17 hearing 1:13,16 39:14 41:5,7,10 heart 5:11 12:24 Heights 21:3 held 1:17 39:21 Hello 10:12 12:5 help 7:20 11:1 19:23 23:21,23 23:24 29:16 31:21 helps 21:22 Hi 27:21 33:25 high 4:12 5:4 6:2 6:14 8:3 9:7 30:19 36:23 37:3 highly 32:15 historical 21:25 history 5:4 home 5:13 honor 12:6 hope 27:17 35:4 hopefully 13:17 26:8 hospital 1:4,4,4 3:14,18 4:2 5:6</p>	<p>6:8,9 7:21 10:13 11:1 12:9 12:16 13:6 14:19,20 15:20 15:23 17:14,19 18:5,22,23 21:12,14,18 22:3,11,13,19 22:19,23 24:19 25:24 26:1 27:24 28:1,7,8 28:11 29:8,8 30:16 34:11 35:10,12,17 36:21 37:4,5 hospitals 13:25 21:1 28:22 29:5 hospital's 7:17 29:20 hotline 19:24 hours 20:9 HSHS 6:9 7:22 8:2,5,17,23 37:9 hub 23:7,14 huge 24:9,9 hyperbaric 9:5 H-A-R-D-T 32:21 H-A-R-K-I-N-S 10:8 H-A-Y-D-E-N 14:13</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">I</p> <p>ICU 9:11 identified 26:15 26:22 identify 26:4 IL 2:9 ill 11:21 Illinois 1:2,17,20 1:20 3:23 5:11 7:6 8:6,8 21:11 21:23 22:4 23:15 24:9</p>	<p>26:13 27:11 33:13 37:10 39:22 40:4,7 42:4,21 illness 10:18 11:9 16:15 36:4 impact 13:8 28:6 implementation 18:11,13 implemented 28:18 Implementing 9:9 important 12:22 25:2,3 27:4 34:9 improve 23:3 29:17,17,18 improved 26:14 inadequate 17:23 include 5:24 7:18 includes 35:12 including 9:1,5 15:25 inconsistent 9:18 Incorporated 7:21 increased 17:21 increasingly 6:10 indirectly 32:23 individuals 6:4 38:2 inhouse 9:6 Inn 39:22 inpatient 4:25 5:16 7:11,24 8:13 9:16 11:13 11:15 14:3 17:24 18:4 22:14 23:13 27:8 input 20:19 29:18 inside 30:16 Institute 5:11 institution 22:7</p>	<p>instructions 3:10 intensive 23:18 23:20,23 32:8 intensivist 9:9 intentions 14:23 interest 10:24 27:16 37:23 38:9 interested 42:13 interfaces 30:25 interrupt 15:5 invest 8:23 9:20 investments 9:1 invite 8:9 involuntary 30:7 31:22,25 involved 35:25 involvement 18:10 IOP 32:8 IPLAN 26:13 issue 26:16 31:24 issues 21:25 30:2 30:4,10,24 31:19 32:3,7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">J</p> <p>Jefferson 1:1 40:6 job 31:14 join 27:17 Joseph 14:12,12 15:7,17 joy 5:8 Jung 10:10,10,12 37:21 J-O-S-E-P-H 14:13 J-U-N-G 10:11</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">K</p> <p>K 2:9 42:3 Kenneth 22:6,8 22:23 28:8 key 15:23 16:4 18:10</p>	<p>kind 14:21,24 16:15 27:8 know 4:22 5:8 10:19 12:16 14:17 15:2,11 15:20 16:13 20:1 24:21 27:4 39:2 knowing 22:6 knowledge 11:6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <p>ladies 14:18 15:22 16:12 laptop 3:10 largest 33:12 Larry 21:9,9 latest 31:11,12 layering 23:17 lead 29:5 leaders 5:25 35:18 leadership 28:2 leave 15:4 led 23:6 28:19 left 20:10,13 length 32:12 letter 14:15 level 14:1 28:15 license 36:5 licensed 36:7 life 14:20 19:12 24:16 34:2 light 22:1 limited 28:20 Lincoln 5:10 Litigation 2:9 little 5:3 20:19 21:24 lived 12:12 14:20 19:11 lives 14:2 living 8:4 loan 7:23,23 37:7 local 17:5 28:15 28:22 29:5</p>
---	---	---	--	---

<p>33:11 located 5:9 12:14 39:22 location 29:16 33:4 locations 23:18 36:2 long 8:18 10:25 24:16 26:15 34:2 longer 14:5 38:8 longevity 28:19 long-term 4:12 7:3 11:22 18:3 28:22 32:7,15 37:2 look 9:13 20:12 23:2 32:7,8 looked 22:17 looking 23:6 31:24 34:10,15 looming 18:13 loss 19:24 Louis 2:10 5:14 8:20 13:10 22:4 34:13,16,18 love 38:8 lowering 32:15 Loynd 38:11 L-A-R-R-Y 21:10 L-Y-S-A-K-O-... 37:21</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">M</p> <hr/> <p>M 38:11 Madam 14:14 15:18 main 24:22 major 27:7 making 33:10 manage 11:19 manager 12:12 Maria 19:5,8,11 Mark 25:12,15 25:17,17 35:7,7</p>	<p>35:9 Maryann 3:19 Mary's 22:2,5,11 28:7 Master 12:10 materialize 22:21 matter 1:16 15:17 16:7 31:24 McCULLEY 21:9,10 mean 31:12 36:14 38:24 medical 3:17 5:5 5:13 7:18 8:19 10:13 11:7 12:11,20 16:2 16:10 19:15 30:22 36:25 medication 30:21 medicine 8:22 meet 7:12 11:12 17:23 18:1,25 26:4 36:18 meeting 2:3 39:21,21 40:22 member 3:24 13:1 20:21 24:18 34:7 35:2 members 21:2 26:17 Memorial 19:16 mental 4:6,13,20 4:25 6:2 7:8,12 8:15 9:16,21 10:17 11:2,9,23 13:2,6,9 14:1 16:10,15 17:3,5 17:7,11,18 19:20 20:1,4,7 26:1 27:2 28:9 28:10,12,16,20 28:23 29:3,9,10 29:14,17 34:7 36:4 37:3,13 mentally 11:21</p>	<p>merging 31:18 met 14:25 methodologies 31:12 methods 31:12 Metro 4:4,11,18 5:5 6:3 9:12,14 11:15 17:23 27:16 34:12 36:22 midst 28:20 Midwest 2:9 Mikkelson 29:23 29:24 million 7:22 15:21,22 21:20 23:9 37:7 millions 12:19 Millstadt 21:2 ministry's 5:6 mission 6:12 7:18 8:4 MO 2:9,10 mobilizes 26:3 model 28:25 29:4 29:10,11,15 Monheiser 38:11 morning 20:10 20:13,14 move 16:16 20:18 moving 24:24 myriad 28:5 M-A-R-K 25:17 35:8 M-C-C-U-L-L-... 21:10 M-I-K-K-E-L-... 29:24</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">N</p> <hr/> <p>N 3:1 name 3:17 10:10 10:12 12:5 19:11 24:15 25:16 27:22</p>	<p>32:20 33:25 35:9 names 10:5 nationwide 7:5 nearby 34:18 nearly 13:23 22:3 necessarily 24:21 need 4:20 9:24 12:8 14:2 16:8 17:12,16,24 18:3,14,20 19:14 22:23 23:2,7 24:20 25:23 26:14 27:9,18 28:23 29:4 31:4,5,6,7 32:5,8 33:1,8 35:17 37:16 needed 10:23 18:7 Needham 2:9 42:3 needs 4:3 7:12 9:22 11:12,16 15:20 16:11 18:1,8,25 20:22 21:7 22:13 23:25 26:4 29:14 34:23 36:18 needy 5:7 negative 13:8 neither 42:8 neonatal 9:8 nervous 19:17 network 13:18 21:22 23:11 24:3 27:5 new 6:15 11:12 33:4 nine 34:4 North 2:10 Notary 42:4,20 note 39:18,25 number 4:7 10:9 11:14 12:1</p>	<p>14:10 16:24 19:3,20 21:5 24:14 25:11,13 27:20 32:18 33:23 37:1 numbers 10:3 numerical 3:15 numerous 21:1 nurse 12:14 20:14</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">O</p> <hr/> <p>O 3:1 objective 17:9 objectives 26:21 observed 28:5 obstetric 7:19 obviously 34:5 occur 20:22 offer 5:11 7:9 13:18 37:1 offering 7:6 26:24 offers 4:7 Officer 3:18 offices 5:13 officials 5:25 Oh 19:6 39:4 okay 3:12 15:16 19:6 27:19 37:25 38:6,21 39:7,9,18 40:19 41:5 old 6:11 once 11:13,16 ongoing 18:6,12 opened 22:24 operated 22:3 28:10 operating 29:16 operational 11:18 opportunities 22:18 opportunity 17:4 22:16,22 27:23</p>
---	---	---	---	--

<p>29:1 31:11 39:12 oppose 25:6 38:20 opposing 19:18 opposition 3:6 19:3,10 21:7,8 oral 35:21 order 1:5 3:15 37:8 organization 6:8 22:10 37:5 organizations 4:15 29:14 31:16 outcome 42:13 outcomes 29:18 outpatient 5:1,17 23:18,20,23 27:8 32:8 outside 33:4 outstanding 4:7 37:1 overall 7:17 overdose 30:21 overlays 24:3 oversee 26:10 ownership 22:5 oxygen 9:5</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">P</p> <p>P 3:1 Pamela 2:9 42:3 paperwork 20:13 parent 21:19 23:5 37:5 Park 34:14,19 part 4:24 8:9 25:1,2,3 26:18 30:8,11 participate 8:5 13:17 37:10 participated 28:14 particular 11:7 Particularly</p>	<p>28:12 parties 42:9,12 path 10:24 patient 7:10 8:11 20:16 29:18 30:17 patients 4:4,8 6:3 6:15 7:1,13 8:12 10:23,25 11:8,12,18 14:2 16:10 20:7,11 23:13 24:1,10 27:9 30:7,15 36:4,15 37:2 pediatric 9:7 pediatrician 9:6 people 5:22 14:25 15:8,11 15:25 16:1,17 23:19,23 25:4 34:25 35:16 38:13 percent 32:1 36:14 person 19:2 pertaining 40:2 Peters 25:12,15 25:17,17 Phil 24:15,15 Philip 2:6 3:24 40:18 physician 5:13 5:15 8:22 19:16 19:19 20:11 29:25 physicians 6:1 9:21 19:14 picking 30:14 picture 9:14 pillar 12:17 place 10:2 30:18 placed 28:21 placement 20:11 places 25:5 31:1 plan 4:5,18 7:8 7:10 8:6 26:19</p>	<p>26:22 27:10 37:11,23 planning 17:6 18:11 20:22 22:17 26:10,12 35:25 plans 10:25 play 30:13 please 5:3 10:2,9 20:14 39:18 pleased 4:1 point 22:2 population 7:10 20:1,23 29:15 position 3:8 positive 16:19 possible 37:8 39:24 Post 34:16 practicing 10:15 practitioners 31:6 precursor 33:2 prehospital 30:15 preparation 20:22 prepared 38:4 present 2:1,6 27:23 presented 21:14 preserve 13:25 president 3:19 35:10 pressure 30:20 pretty 36:12 prevent 23:21 prevention 12:23 preventive 13:19 primary 5:12 24:4 Prime 5:11 prior 23:24 priority 26:16 probably 16:12 35:1</p>	<p>problem 16:16 problems 13:9 proceedings 42:5 process 26:12 profession 28:4 professionals 29:13 34:20 program 5:15,19 6:16,22,24 8:22 9:4,9 10:20 13:15 28:19 programs 7:16 8:24 9:1,3 12:22 13:25 17:21 32:9 project 1:7 3:6 3:11 16:22 19:3 35:22 39:19 40:3 promote 26:5 prototype 18:17 proud 10:21 provide 3:5,11 4:10 6:2 8:14 10:22 13:6 14:1 15:11 17:20 22:18 37:12 39:16 provided 5:4 6:19 13:22 33:9 provider 9:15 11:23 providers 7:6 8:9 11:4,5,10 18:8 24:5 27:7 provides 6:23 providing 9:10 18:6 23:15 provision 18:3 proximity 33:14 prudent 18:14 psychiatrist 10:15 psychiatrists 24:4 Psychiatry 10:14</p>	<p>psychologists 31:7 public 1:13,16 15:20 26:3,13 27:12 40:1 41:6 42:4,20 pulled 3:9 purpose 5:6 pursued 22:24 put 15:22 21:19 38:5 P-E-T-E-R-S 25:18 P-H-I-L 24:16 p.m 3:2 41:10</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Q</p> <p>qualified 29:12 quality 4:12 5:4 6:2,14 8:4 11:9 17:11 33:20 36:23 37:3 questions 40:20 41:4,6 quite 36:7 quotes 34:16</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">R</p> <p>R 3:1 Randy 10:10,10 10:12 37:21 rang 5:17 range 17:21 rate 36:13 read 3:20 readmissions 23:22 reality 7:21 realized 19:14 really 10:24 31:18 34:8,22 reason 16:7 17:12 21:15 25:6 reasons 22:21 24:8 35:19</p>
--	---	---	--	---

<p>receive 33:20,21 35:2 received 34:7 recommend 32:16 reconfiguration 29:2 record 3:2,7 10:6 14:16 39:1 40:8 reduced 32:3 33:9 42:7 reduces 19:25 reduction 19:20 28:9 Reese 3:19,22 refer 39:23 referrals 8:11 referring 4:23 region 4:4,13,18 6:3 7:1,4,13 8:19,24 9:14,18 11:24 13:7 14:4 16:22 17:23 18:4 29:1,11 37:4 regional 4:2,5 8:3,7,9,13,15 11:1,2 13:3,6 13:18 17:17,19 18:2,5,23 21:12 22:22 23:18 25:25 26:1 27:10 28:1,8 29:8 34:10 35:25 36:3,21 36:24 37:11,13 regions 18:17 34:14 regions's 9:21 rehabilitation 7:19 Reifsteck 35:7,7 35:9 reimbursement 28:6 reimbursements</p>	<p>11:20 relate 7:17 related 42:9 relationship 8:18 relative 42:10 religious 6:8 relocating 33:3 reluctantly 33:15 remain 14:4 remains 5:6 renamed 22:5 report 40:12 reporter 2:8 10:6 42:1,3 reports 40:10 representative 3:14 representing 19:10 represents 4:14 reputation 13:24 request 27:25 29:19 32:24 33:2,2,8,15 requester 33:17 33:22 requirements 26:14 requiring 9:8 reside 13:11 residence 33:14 residency 5:15 8:22 resident 19:17,18 24:17 32:22,25 34:2 residents 4:11 5:5 12:20 17:9 17:10 19:1 26:6 27:1,17 33:9,11 33:13,20 34:24 36:22 resource 32:14 resources 7:4,16 9:19 11:11 14:1 15:23 18:2,15</p>	<p>19:25 26:4 27:6 28:21 34:22 respect 5:8 respond 9:6 responders 20:20 response 39:13 39:17 responses 40:12 40:15 responsibilities 28:2 responsible 17:6 responsive 18:24 resulting 18:22 resuscitation 9:8 retired 12:10 Review 1:1,18 3:23 4:22 9:23 11:25 14:7 37:15 40:5 right 15:24 34:11 37:22 39:10,14 risk 9:7 road 15:24 role 12:17 23:4 room 16:13 30:17 rooms 23:14 30:6 30:12,13 32:6 root 31:20 Rosenzweig 17:1 17:2 roughly 32:1 route 32:10 run 10:25 30:5 36:5 runs 36:3,6 R-A-N-D-Y 10:11 R-E-I-F-S-T-E... 35:8 R-O-S-E-N-Z... 17:2</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">S</p> <hr/> <p>S 3:1</p>	<p>sad 19:24 save 15:21 says 14:24 Scarbrough 19:5 19:8,11 scheduled 39:19 school 19:15 34:4 Scott 5:14 screening 12:20 script 3:9 10:3 Second 40:6 see 20:15 25:4 27:12,14 29:5 seen 13:8 sense 13:4 sent 40:3,15 September 39:20 40:1,11,14,16 41:1 Sergeant 12:11 serious 16:10,15 serve 4:15 5:16 8:24 9:21 11:4 11:15 12:6 16:17 25:20 29:11,14 34:12 served 9:15 12:25 serves 17:4 service 6:17 11:22 17:25 36:9 services 1:1,18 2:9 3:23 4:4,9 4:11,13,21,24 5:1,2,18 7:7,20 7:21 9:2,12,17 13:12,15,23 17:9,11,21,22 17:25 18:4,7,20 21:23 22:15,19 23:4,12 26:15 26:25 27:2,5 28:1,3,6,9,13 28:24,25 29:3 29:17 33:9,10</p>	<p>33:13,18 34:8 35:3 36:12 37:3 37:4 40:5 servicing 6:25 34:23 set 6:7 share 21:24 shared 14:25 sheets 3:7 38:3 38:16,24 39:3 Shelley 38:11 Shelly 3:16,17 10:7,7 37:20 short 24:23 show 35:16 shrinking 11:20 28:20 sick 5:7 sign 3:4 25:14,15 38:3 signed 35:20 significantly 28:14 sign-in 21:7 SIHF 8:8,18,20 Silsby 24:15,16 simply 37:24 Sisters 1:4,4 6:8 7:21 35:11 37:4 37:6 site 30:15 36:17 36:17 situation 30:12 size 31:11 small 22:25 smart 9:19 Smithton 21:2 solution 29:6 solve 30:9 31:2 sorry 19:17 40:16,24 south 1:19 33:12 Southern 5:11 8:6,8 21:11,23 23:15 24:9 35:11 37:10</p>
--	--	--	--	---

<p>speak 14:15,16 32:21 SPEAKER 37:18 37:22 38:1,7,12 38:18,21,23 39:2,6,9 speakers 37:19 38:2 speaking 10:2 21:6 25:22 speaks 8:2 specialists 9:10 specializes 28:25 specialty 5:12 11:7 spell 10:5 spirit 5:7 splitting 27:6 spoke 15:8 sponsoring 6:8 Springfield 1:2 33:12 39:22 40:6 St 1:4,5 2:10 3:14 3:18 4:1,19,21 5:4,9,10,14,23 6:9,13,20 7:7 7:15 8:4,17,19 8:20,23,25 10:13,18,25 12:9,14,18,21 12:25 13:5,10 13:12,16 14:7 14:18,19 15:3 15:19 16:21,21 17:3,5,13,16 18:21 19:13 20:15 21:14,18 22:2,4,5,11,12 22:20 23:5 24:12,19 25:19 25:21,24,24 26:6,7,16,25 27:14,24 28:7 29:7,20 30:1 32:17 34:3,8,13</p>	<p>34:15,17 35:12 35:17 36:6,16 36:20 37:5,9 stabilize 23:25 staff 9:21 14:19 14:25 29:13 stage 6:7 stakeholders 18:10 stand 10:16 standards 31:13 standing 8:18 start 5:3 started 3:8,13 31:24 state 1:17 3:12 12:9 18:18 25:24 27:13 28:10,15 39:20 40:10,13 42:4 42:21 statement 14:24 16:6 statements 37:24 38:4,13,14 State's 18:12 stay 32:2,12 38:8 staying 25:7 Steakhouse 39:22 step 16:20 Steven 34:16 stewards 7:16 stop 23:1 strategies 28:16 28:17,23 street 1:1,20 2:10 5:10 34:3,5 39:23 40:6 strength 29:12 stroke 12:23 30:20 stroke/telestroke 9:3 strong 9:15 11:23 12:17 27:5,24</p>	<p>28:16 strongly 13:3 14:6 structure 8:10 24:6 struggles 22:9,13 struggling 22:7,7 study 31:19 studying 30:4 submit 40:2 submitted 12:8 17:13 25:23 Subsequently 22:22 subsidiary 7:22 37:4 substance 11:9 17:8 successful 6:15 32:11 suffering 11:8 suicide 19:23 Sulbrena 27:21 27:21 summarizing 14:17 support 4:19 5:23 6:5 8:1,14 8:21 10:17 12:7 16:8,22 17:12 21:13,15,18 23:16 24:3,11 25:22 27:24 33:15 35:16,19 35:21,23 37:13 38:20 supported 28:18 supporters 5:24 6:6 supporting 23:17 27:17 sure 15:13 19:8 20:17 23:19 24:2 25:9 36:22 38:7 surgical 7:19</p>	<p>surrounding 16:1 34:14 sustain 6:12,17 6:21 sustainable 10:21 18:24 29:4,9 system 1:4 6:9 18:24 20:25 24:6 26:3 27:6 28:16 37:6 systems 30:14 35:11 S-H-E-L-L-Y 10:8 S-I-L-S-B-Y 24:16 S-U-L-B-R-E-... 27:22</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">T</p> <hr/> <p>table 10:4 38:5 take 20:15 35:4 taken 30:19 35:1 42:6 talk 16:2 talked 30:25 31:2 target 36:13 techniques 9:4 telemedicine 23:16 telepsychiatry 23:16 tell 34:25 tentatively 39:19 testified 39:15 testify 12:16 39:11 testimony 3:5 4:22 35:21 39:16 thank 3:22 6:4 9:24 10:1 12:1 14:8,10 16:23 16:24 19:1,6 21:4,5 24:13,14</p>	<p>25:7,8 27:18,19 27:23 29:21,22 32:17,18 33:22 33:23 35:5,6,15 37:16,17 39:9 40:24,25 41:2,7 41:8 Thanks 19:2 therapy 9:5 thereto 42:12 things 30:6,8 31:2 think 20:20 31:18 32:4 35:3 thinking 26:24 THIRD 1:5 three 35:13 three-day 32:2 time 5:12 7:5 9:25 11:19 14:3 29:19 37:23 38:9 today 5:6 22:2 23:6 24:7 25:22 32:24 33:21 36:16 today's 16:3,4 told 20:14 Tom 29:23,24 tonight 4:17,22 5:20,22 6:5 19:10 21:12 34:21 top 40:25 topics 12:23 touched 16:14 Touchette 4:2,6 6:18 7:2,8,11 7:15,23,24 8:16 8:17 9:16,20 11:1,3,22,23 13:6,14,16,20 13:22 16:17 17:18 18:2,5,22 20:12 21:12 22:22 23:10</p>
---	--	---	--	---

25:25 27:15 28:1 29:8 30:1 30:1 34:10 36:2 36:11,17,21,25 37:8,14 Touchette's 8:1 11:17 transfers 30:6 transitioning 8:12 transpired 21:25 travel 25:5 treatment 5:1 tremendous 24:10 true 21:22 24:5 Tuesday 40:11 turn 14:2,15 two 4:14 11:3,16 13:25 20:10 27:7 29:13 31:17 36:10 type 27:10 typewriting 42:7 <hr/> <p style="text-align:center">U</p> <hr/> ultimately 22:24 unable 3:19 6:21 6:23 underlying 35:24 underserved 20:23 understand 24:20 understanding 17:15 33:16 unfortunately 16:11 22:8,20 UNIDENTIFI... 37:18,22 38:1,7 38:12,18,21,23 39:2,6,9 unit 6:14 7:25 8:13 21:21 22:11,25 University 5:14	8:21 untreated 13:9 urge 14:6 use 18:16 utilization 32:14 36:13 utilize 31:9 utilizing 9:4 <hr/> <p style="text-align:center">V</p> <hr/> vacating 33:3 various 22:21 28:14 versus 24:6 viability 4:12 7:3 16:3 28:19 37:2 Vice-president 27:25 vital 6:17 29:15 voice 12:7 voluntary 32:2 vote 9:23 vulnerable 7:10 20:1,23 <hr/> <p style="text-align:center">W</p> <hr/> W 14:12 waiting 20:9,11 want 15:7 16:2 20:12 24:2 38:14 wanted 15:13 wanting 15:4,10 24:21 war 34:19 35:2 ward 12:7,15,15 24:18,19 Washington 34:13,19 way 4:23 6:17 9:20 16:13 20:3 website 34:11 39:24 40:9,11 Wednesday 40:1 week 20:8 welcome 13:5	17:4 well-being 26:5 went 34:4 West 1:1 40:5 we'll 3:8,13 we're 20:2 31:5,6 31:7,8 35:22 36:6 38:8 we've 6:16 white 3:7 12:3,3 12:5 39:3,5 wide 5:17 wife 12:13 Wiggington 34:17 willing 37:6 38:8 win 24:9,9,10 wishes 39:11,16 work 11:1,11 16:9 workable 29:6 worked 8:21 12:11 22:16 28:3 working 4:2 27:15 30:2 31:13 36:21 works 23:14 wouldn't 35:1 wound 9:4 write 40:24 writes 3:22 written 10:3 38:20 40:2,12 40:14 www.HFSRB.I... 40:9 W-H-I-T-E 12:4 <hr/> <p style="text-align:center">Y</p> <hr/> yeah 25:15 38:12 year 12:21 26:8 years 6:7 7:18 8:16,25 9:22 10:16 11:16 12:13,18 21:25	25:2 27:3 28:4 28:5 29:3 30:2 34:4 36:24 37:14 <hr/> <p style="text-align:center">Z</p> <hr/> zone 34:19 35:2 <hr/> <p style="text-align:center">\$</p> <hr/> \$10 7:22 21:20 23:9 37:7 \$2 15:21,21 <hr/> <p style="text-align:center">1</p> <hr/> 10 29:22 10th 40:11,17 101 1:19 39:23 11 32:19 11th 2:10 12 23:10 33:24 36:5 12-bed 22:25 13 35:6 13th 40:14 13-034 1:7 140 7:18 140-year 6:11 17 12:13 18 36:6,8 1875 5:5 <hr/> <p style="text-align:center">2</p> <hr/> 2 10:9 36:24 2nd 1:1 20 10:16 2004 22:5 2006 8:22 2011 26:18 2012 34:15 2013 1:14,19 2016 26:18 2020 26:8 217-782-3516 1:2 217-785-4111 40:8 24 20:9 24th 40:22,24	41:1 24-hour 19:23 26 36:10,15 29 1:14,18 <hr/> <p style="text-align:center">3</p> <hr/> 3 12:2 30 11:13 23:11 36:12 30-bed 31:11 314-644-2191 2:11 338 5:16 35 25:10 39 28:4 <hr/> <p style="text-align:center">4</p> <hr/> 4 14:11 20:10,14 4th 39:21 40:1,22 40:23 <hr/> <p style="text-align:center">5</p> <hr/> 5 16:25 24:18 5th 12:15 525 1:1 40:5 <hr/> <p style="text-align:center">6</p> <hr/> 6 19:5 34:15 6th 12:6,15 6:03 3:2 6:53 41:10 62761 1:2 62761-0001 40:7 63101 2:10 <hr/> <p style="text-align:center">7</p> <hr/> 7 21:6 711 2:10 <hr/> <p style="text-align:center">8</p> <hr/> 8 20:13 24:14 36:4,5 80 32:1 85 36:13 <hr/> <p style="text-align:center">9</p> <hr/> 9 25:11 27:20
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<p>40:1,13 9th 25:13</p>				
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