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PRESENT:
MS. KATHRYN OLSON, Board Member, and
MS. CATHERINE CLARKE, Hearing Officer.

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1 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: Good morning, I
2 am Catherine Clarke, Hearing Officer for the Health
3 Facilities and Services Review Board. Present with me
4 today is board member Kathy Olson. On behalf of
5 Health Facilities and Services Review Board, thank you
6 for attending this public hearing for NorthPointe
7 Health & Wellness Campus Freestanding Emergency
8 Center, Roscoe.

9 As per the rules of the Illinois Health
10 Facilities and Services Review Board, I would like to
11 read the legal notice into the record:

12 "Notice of Public Hearing and Written
13 Comment.

14 "In accordance with the requirements of the
15 Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act, notice is
16 given of receipt to establish a freestanding emergency
17 center (FSEC), Project 14-040, NorthPointe Health &
18 Wellness Freestanding Emergency Center, Roscoe.

19 Applicant: Beloit Health System, Inc. The Applicant
20 proposes to convert its existing immediate care center
21 to a freestanding emergency center. The facility is
22 located at 5605 East Rockton Road, Roscoe. Project
23 cost, \$1,442,398.

24 "A public hearing will take place pursuant

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1 to 20 ILCS 3960. The hearing is scheduled for
2 Wednesday, October 22, 2014, at 11:30 a.m., and
3 sign-in for the hearing will be conducted from 11:00
4 to 11:30 a.m. It will be held at Roscoe Village Hall
5 Council Chambers, 10631 Main Street, Roscoe, Illinois
6 61073.

7 "The public hearing will be conducted by
8 staff of the Health Facilities and Services Review
9 Board pursuant to the Illinois Health Facilities
10 Planning Act. The hearing is open to the public and
11 will afford an opportunity for parties with interest
12 to present written and/or verbal comment relative to
13 the project. All allegations and assertions should be
14 relevant to the need for the proposed project and be
15 supported with two copies of documentation or materials
16 that are printed or typed on paper sized 8 1/2 by 11.
17 Consideration by the State Board has been tentatively
18 scheduled for the November 12th, 2014, State Board
19 meeting." End of public notice.

20 As previously stated, this public hearing is
21 conducted by staff of the Illinois Health Facilities
22 and Services Review Board pursuant to the Illinois
23 Health Facilities Planning Act. The hearing is open
24 to the public and affords the opportunity for parties

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1 with interest in the project to present written and/or
2 verbal comment relevant to the project. All allegations
3 or assertions should be relevant to the need for the
4 proposed project and be supported with two copies of
5 documentation or materials that are printed or typed
6 on paper sized 8 1/2 by 11.

7 Please note that in order to assure that the
8 Health Facilities and Services Review Board's public
9 hearings protect the privacy and maintain the
10 confidentiality of an individual's health information,
11 covered entities as defined by the Health Insurance
12 Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, such as
13 hospital providers, health plans, and health care
14 clearinghouses submitting oral or written testimony
15 that disclose protected health information of
16 individuals shall have a valid written authorization
17 from that individual. The authorization shall allow
18 the covered entity to share the individual's protected
19 health information at this hearing.

20 If you have not yet signed in, please see me.

21 Those of you who have prepared text of your
22 testimony, please note that you may submit the written
23 text only, which will be entered into today's record
24 and be made available for all Board members prior to

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1 the November 12th board meeting.

2 I ask that you please limit your testimony
3 to two minutes and will call participants by numerical
4 order. Prior to beginning your remarks, please clearly
5 state and spell your full name. After you have
6 concluded your remarks, if you have copies, please
7 provide those to me as well as your completed sign-in
8 sheet. Thank you.

9 Today's proceeding will begin with a
10 representative from NorthPointe Health & Wellness.

11 MR. MC KEVETT: As these are the opening
12 comments, is the testimony limited to two minutes,
13 just as a clarification?

14 MEMBER OLSON: What do you have there?
15 A half hour? Hour? Just be brief.

16 MR. MC KEVETT: Good morning. My name
17 is Tim McKeveitt. I'm president and CEO of Beloit
18 Health System. I'd like to thank you and the Illinois
19 Health Facilities Planning Board and the Roscoe Village
20 for hosting this public hearing to allow us to express
21 our case for the conversion of our NorthPointe
22 Immediate Care to a freestanding emergency room.

23 There are three key points to help justify
24 the project.

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1 The first one is improved access to
2 emergency care for patients, the community, and the EMS
3 providers. We have strong community support from the
4 villages of Roscoe and Rockton, City of South Beloit,
5 their EMS providers from the area, the business
6 community, and, of course, our patients.

7 Secondly is the ease of conversion to a
8 freestanding emergency room. When we established the
9 immediate care, we intended to have a higher level of
10 care. The staff with board-certified emergency room
11 physicians and ER nurses is really an extension of our
12 emergency room from our Beloit Memorial Hospital in
13 Beloit, Wisconsin. In essence, it is a de facto
14 freestanding emergency room, but we do understand that
15 we need a license to be able to put ourselves out
16 there as providing emergency care and be able to
17 accept ambulance transfers.

18 The third key point is the cost effectiveness
19 of the conversion. The facility is in place. As I
20 mentioned, the staff qualifications and training are
21 there, and the support department are also in place,
22 and that includes medical imaging and our clinical
23 laboratory.

24 The Beloit Health System has been in

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1 Roscoe/Rockton since 1991 with a primary care center.
2 In January of 2007, after due consideration by the
3 Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board, we opened
4 up our NorthPointe campus. That campus consists of
5 150,000 square feet situated on 122 acres which is
6 located about a mile up the road from this facility.
7 It includes physician offices, diagnostic services,
8 occupational health, physical therapy, medically
9 integrated wellness, assisted living, and high-level
10 immediate care.

11 The Beloit Health System owns and operates
12 the NorthPointe campus. It serves as an associate
13 hospital and participates in the region's EMS systems,
14 and 44 percent of our activity comes from Illinois
15 residents.

16 Our current NorthPointe Immediate Care has
17 6,734 square feet. As I mentioned, it's staffed by
18 board-certified emergency room physicians and ER
19 staff. We wanted to provide a higher level of care
20 for the community. It has full imaging, including CT,
21 digital X-ray, portable X-ray, ultrasound, and MRI.
22 It has a full laboratory.

23 Its current hours of operation are from
24 9:00 to 9:00. It's open 362 days a year. Its average

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1 volume is 9500. The severity of cases that we see
2 there mirror almost our ER except for trauma and
3 ambulance cases. 63 percent of our patients come from
4 a primary service area of Roscoe, Rockton, and South
5 Beloit. 21 percent come from Beloit, and less than
6 3 percent come from the Rockton market.

7 The scope of the project consists of
8 converting our existing immediate care from an
9 eight-station freestanding emergency room. This will
10 require us to modernize existing space -- no new
11 facilities will be built from the ground up -- of
12 1,180 square feet. We'll expand our trauma room,
13 create a decontamination room with an exterior exit,
14 put in a helipad, and a large portion of the cost of
15 the project is to establish emergency power.

16 As mentioned, the total cost of the project
17 is \$1,442,398. We would be expanding coverage, of
18 course, to 24/7/365 and provide an on-site ambulance
19 transfer unit.

20 In conclusion, the benefits of the project
21 will include improved access for emergency care, which
22 we believe will improve the quality of prehospital
23 care in the sense that we will be able to get patients
24 to an emergency room, EMS personnel in an 8- to

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1 10-minute time frame from the primary service area
2 versus a 22-minute time frame if those patients need
3 to be transferred to either Rockford or to Beloit, and
4 every minute counts in that golden hour.

5 The ambulances will stay in the community.
6 It's not uncommon, according to the feedback from our
7 EMS providers in the area, for it to take 60 to
8 90 minutes to do a run to either of the emergency
9 rooms in Rockford or Beloit. By reducing that by
10 half, that will keep the ambulances in our community
11 and provide greater coverage for the local
12 municipality.

13 Also, it will improve access to law
14 enforcement for local police departments in Winnebago
15 County when they're doing medical screenings and DUI
16 or postaccident screenings.

17 As mentioned, it's minimal cost. The
18 infrastructure is in place. It will improve patient
19 access and safety net. We do currently hold ourselves
20 out to the EMTALA standards, and, of course, that will
21 happen when and if we're approved for the emergency
22 services, and what that means is we'll treat everybody
23 regardless of their ability to pay.

24 Currently we have 24 percent of Medicaid in

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1 the service line from our immediate care and on
2 4 percent self-pay. We will offer different pricing
3 levels from Level 1 to Level 5, with the lower cost
4 being at the Levels 1 and 2.

5 Patients will have the freedom of choice if
6 they need to be transferred out of the facility.
7 Quite often -- we do currently transfer to the
8 Rockford providers, as well as up to our Beloit
9 facility.

10 This will create 12 new jobs and also
11 construction jobs, 6 new jobs for three months.

12 We have, again, strong community support.
13 For these reasons we ask that you approve the project
14 and grant a CON to move forward.

15 Thank you.

16 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: We'll start
17 with No. 1.

18 MR. MESSINGER: Good morning. My name
19 is Ryan Messinger; R-y-a-n, M-e-s-s-i-n-g-e-r. I will
20 be presenting a statement on behalf of Reverend
21 Dr. Paul C. Meyers, head chaplain for the Harlem-Roscoe
22 Fire Department and Roscoe Police Department.

23 "As head chaplain for the Harlem-Roscoe Fire
24 Protection District and Roscoe Police Department, I've

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1 been witness to the ever growing number of emergency
2 response calls in our district and communities.

3 "Having been in the area for over four years
4 now, I have also witnessed the positive impact
5 NorthPointe is making in the community in all aspects
6 of health care prevention through long-term assisted
7 living and care. NorthPointe Beloit Health System is
8 a strong and positive influence in our community.

9 "To have the service of a 24/7 freestanding
10 emergency center in this close proximity to the
11 emergent needs would be of great benefit to our
12 community. The conversion of the NorthPointe Beloit
13 Health System Immediate Care into a 24/7 freestanding
14 emergency center is a very good idea. I am in support
15 of NorthPointe Immediate Care becoming 24/7 freestanding
16 emergency center."

17 This is on behalf of Reverend Paul C. Meyers,
18 head chaplain for the Harlem-Roscoe Fire Department,
19 Roscoe. Thank you.

20 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: No. 2.

21 MR. PAROD: Good morning, my name is
22 Dan Parod. I'm the senior vice president of hospital
23 and administrative affairs for Rockford Health System.
24 I serve as the chief operating officer.

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1 Rockford Health System is one of the area's
2 largest employers and has a primary care office and
3 immediate care center located in Roscoe. In addition,
4 many of our employees live in the immediate area.

5 I'm here today to voice Rockford Memorial
6 Hospital's strong opposition to Beloit Health System's
7 proposal to establish a freestanding emergency center
8 at its Roscoe campus.

9 The proposed project is unneeded and
10 represents unnecessary duplication of services and is
11 little more than an attempt by the Applicant to move
12 Illinois patients to its Beloit, Wisconsin, hospital.

13 The residents of northern Winnebago County
14 are well-served by four strong hospitals, each of
15 which has a large emergency department, which are all
16 underutilized. Based on IDPH data and information
17 provided directly by the Applicant, the following ED
18 utilization rates support this underutilization:

19 Rockford Memorial Hospital has 29 ED
20 stations and in 2013 had sufficient utilization to
21 support only 25 stations based on IDPH's target
22 utilization rate;

23 SwedishAmerican Hospital has 42 ED stations
24 and utilization to support only 31; and

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1 OSF St. Anthony Medical Center has 24 stations
2 and utilization to support 19.

3 So combined, these three hospitals have an
4 excess of 20 ED stations.

5 In addition, the Applicant's own hospital,
6 as noted in the CON application, is located only
7 13 minutes from the proposed site. That hospital
8 itself has an excess of 6 ED stations.

9 The Applicants are currently operating an
10 immediate care center on their Roscoe site which,
11 according to the Applicant, could be considered a
12 de facto FSEC. They cite their immediate care
13 center's limited hours of operation as the primary
14 reason for seeking designation as a freestanding
15 emergency center. If that's really the issue, they
16 could simply extend their hours of operation.

17 Additionally, it should be noted that any
18 critically ill or critically injured patient that
19 requires hospitalization will need to be transported
20 to a hospital from the Applicant's Roscoe campus
21 whether it's called an immediate care center or
22 designated as a freestanding emergency center. This
23 project is little more than an attempt to direct and
24 siphon off Illinois residents to the Applicant's

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1 Beloit, Wisconsin, hospital.

2 For these reasons, Rockford Memorial
3 Hospital strongly urges the Health Facilities and
4 Services Review Board to deny Project 1378040.

5 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: No. 3.

6 MR. WILSON: Good morning. My name is
7 Shawn Wilson; S-h-a-w-n, W-i-l-s-o-n. I work for
8 Southern Wisconsin Emergency Associates, and I'm the
9 medical director for the Beloit Health System
10 emergency department. I'm speaking in support of
11 licensing NorthPointe to operate as a freestanding
12 emergency care center.

13 NorthPointe is a state-of-the-art facility
14 that was built with the potential of becoming a
15 freestanding emergency center in mind. The physical
16 structure and the ancillary services necessary to
17 operate at a level of a freestanding emergency care
18 center are already in place. There are multiple
19 highly-skilled motivated and caring individuals,
20 including physicians, nurses, administration,
21 laboratory, and X-ray staff that have already
22 committed to this endeavor. What NorthPointe lacks is
23 the license to operate as a freestanding emergency care.

24 The cities and the citizens of Roscoe and

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1 Rockton and the surrounding area will benefit by
2 allowing NorthPointe to function as a freestanding
3 emergency care center. As such, NorthPointe can offer
4 24/7, 365-day-per-year access to high-quality
5 emergency care. Physician staffing at this facility
6 are specialty trained and board certified in emergency
7 medicine. They are equipped to deal with adult and
8 pediatric emergencies, including acute medical illness
9 and trauma-related injuries.

10 NorthPointe can offer cardiac monitoring and
11 rapid diagnostic workups and interventions for
12 patients that are suffering from a wide variety of
13 potentially serious illnesses. They have access to
14 full diagnostic radiologic services, including CT
15 scans and state-of-the-art laboratory services. They
16 will be able to administer IV fluids and medications
17 and provide immediate life-saving airway management
18 when needed.

19 As a freestanding emergency center,
20 NorthPointe will be able to accept patients arriving
21 by ambulance. By virtue of its location, ambulance
22 transport times to NorthPointe will be considerably
23 shorter than taking patients to Rockford or to Beloit.
24 This in itself could be life-saving and should provide

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1 residents of the area some comfort.

2 Having NorthPointe as a freestanding emergency
3 service certainty may also minimize times when the
4 current EMS personnel are out of service as they're
5 busy transporting patients out of the city. When
6 patients do need to be admitted to a hospital, they
7 can be transported from NorthPointe to a hospital of
8 their choice in a more stable condition.

9 Access to emergency medical care is a
10 fundamental service. A freestanding emergency service
11 facility can provide a broad range of medical services
12 to acutely ill or injured patients 24 hours per day.

13 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: Please
14 conclude.

15 MR. WILSON: Like police or fire
16 response in your neighborhood, you want to be sure
17 that every moment of every day at the instant of your
18 emergency you will have immediate access to high-
19 quality emergency care, and that is what we hope to
20 provide every hour of every day at NorthPointe.

21 MEMBER OLSON: Thank you.

22 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: No. 5.

23 MEMBER OLSON: He's already spoken.

24 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: 4.

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1 MEMBER OLSON: He was 3.

2 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: He was 3, yes.
3 4; I'm sorry.

4 MS. CARYNSKI: Good morning. I'm
5 Paula Carynski; P-a-u-l-a, C-a-r-y-n-s-k-i. And I'm
6 the president of OFS St. Anthony Medical Center in
7 Rockford. I'm going to be submitting a letter, and I
8 appreciate the time to register my strong opposition
9 for this project of converting an existing immediate
10 care to a freestanding emergency center for Beloit
11 Health System. There are many reasons to oppose this
12 project, but I'll share with you what I think are the
13 most important and pertinent.

14 Acute care hospitals are regional facilities
15 designed to serve large populations. The Rockford
16 area is served by three hospitals all with excess
17 ED capacity. The proposed freestanding emergency
18 center is not needed.

19 The travel times to the existing emergency
20 department are reasonable. The Applicant has overstated
21 this issue. There is no evidence that existing travel
22 times or wait times have negatively impacted clinical
23 care.

24 Trauma patients would bypass this facility

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1 since emergency medical systems will not take trauma
2 patients there. Patients requiring hospitalization
3 following evaluation at the freestanding emergency
4 centers require a costly and time consuming transfer.

5 In addition, many of the patients in the
6 service area of Roscoe and Rockton fall into
7 populations that OFS Health Care System is responsible
8 for for their overall health through numerous population
9 health management agreements. OSF is a robust provider
10 in population health management dating back to January
11 of 2012 when it was selected as one of the original
12 32 CMS pioneer accountable care organizations.

13 OSF also acts -- also has commercial
14 contracts for population health management and is
15 actively engaged in enrolling Medicaid patients into
16 the accountable care entity. OSF is financially at
17 risk for such populations, so when its patients use
18 other services such as the proposed freestanding ED --

19 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: Please
20 conclude.

21 MS. CARYNSKI: -- OSF will suffer
22 financially as an organization.

23 And lastly, patients incur higher financial
24 obligations when utilizing an emergency department in

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1 lieu of an urgent care center. Beloit will collect
2 higher net revenue for essentially the same level of
3 service provided to the patients historically utilizing
4 this facility.

5 Thank you very much for affording me the
6 opportunity to register my strong opposition to this
7 project.

8 MEMBER OLSON: Thank you.

9 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: Thank you.

10 No. 5.

11 MS. EDDY: Hello. My name is Mary Eddy;
12 M-a-r-y, E-d-d-y. I'm here as a health care patient.

13 I am a resident of Beloit, Wisconsin, on the
14 rural side of the interstate very close to the state
15 line. Many multiple people in my family have utilized
16 NorthPointe Immediate Care for a slew of different
17 issues. When I arrive there, I'm greeted and I'm
18 treated with a high quality of care without an issue
19 of insurance coverage. Different people in my family
20 have different insurance coverages.

21 I have a young child who is receiving medical
22 benefits through the State of Wisconsin. I don't have
23 to worry when I can't get him into his pediatrician
24 and he has something after hours. I can go there; I

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1 can get him treated, and his insurance is accepted,
2 and they correlate with his physicians within the
3 Beloit system, and the information is there when the
4 doctor goes to look at it.

5 So this facility has provided to me comfort
6 and security. I know when I have an emergency in a
7 rural setting I can get there, and I can get there
8 quickly, and I know the staff and the physicians there
9 are ready and prepared to take care of us.

10 And I think that's all I have. Thank you
11 very much.

12 MEMBER OLSON: Thank you.

13 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: No. 6, please.

14 MS. KOVARAK: My name is Nicole Kovarak;
15 N-i-c-o-l-e, K-o-v-a-r-a-k. I live in Rockton and I
16 support a freestanding emergency center here in
17 Rockton for many reasons.

18 I utilize the NorthPointe Immediate Care for
19 my family members. We have received treatments for
20 fractured bones and lacerations, advanced diagnostics
21 such as the MRI.

22 And one of my concerns is I have a child that
23 has blood sugar issues, and if he has an emergency at
24 school, he's at the Rockton grade school, and if 911 is

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1 called, he will have to take an EMS transport and either
2 end up in Beloit or Rockford, so a 20-minute drive.
3 Where if it was a freestanding emergency center, EMS
4 could take him to the ER that's right there just a
5 couple minutes from the school, and I would be able to
6 have access to him right away.

7 I am in Rockton so I also would be able to
8 be reunited with him in the emergency center here in
9 10 minutes versus going to Rockford and having that
10 travel time of 20 minutes. And in his case his being
11 treated and seen by a board-certified emergency room
12 physician and ER nurses quickly would make a difference
13 for him to get his treatment and medication.

14 So the emergency room here in Rockton would
15 provide comfort and support for me knowing that that
16 was an available resource for us here in town.

17 MEMBER OLSON: Thank you.

18 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: No. 7.

19 MR. DOTSON: Good morning. My name is
20 Jason, J-a-s-o-n, Dotson, D-o-t-s-o-n, vice president
21 with Beloit Health System. And I'm here today to get
22 into the record two letters of support. One is from
23 Chief Kenneth Morse from the South Beloit Fire Rescue,
24 and the other is from Dr. Michael Coogan from Southern

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1 Wisconsin Emergency Associates.

2 Thank you.

3 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: No. 8.

4 MR. STENERSON: Good morning. My name
5 is David, D-a-v-i-d, Stenerson, S-t-e-n-e-r-s-o-n.
6 I'm here as a citizen of Roscoe. I'd like to voice my
7 opposition to this particular venture for NorthPointe.

8 I disagree with the Applicant that the
9 conversion will benefit the community. First of all,
10 the freestanding emergency center will duplicate
11 services already in existence.

12 I did a review of Beloit Health System's
13 website, and in July of 2010 Beloit Memorial opened an
14 \$11.5 million expansion of their emergency department
15 which increased their size by more than three times to
16 include 27 treatment rooms and 6 fast track rooms.

17 On a video clip also located on that
18 website, Dr. Rick Barney, the current emergency room
19 medical director, stated that the opening of the
20 expanded emergency department at Beloit Memorial
21 Hospital provided for -- and I quote a large surge --
22 "a lot of surge capacity" to treat more patients.

23 All three Rockford-based health systems also
24 provide sufficient emergency room capacities for the

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1 region and are almost never on diversion.

2 For the second reason I oppose -- the
3 freestanding emergency center will not improve access
4 to care for low-income populations. The proposed
5 location for the freestanding emergency center is
6 within one of the highest socioeconomic regions of
7 Winnebago County.

8 According to publicschoolreview.com, only
9 2 percent of the students at Hononegah High School,
10 the district that serves the Roscoe/Rockton area,
11 receive free lunch as compared to the Illinois
12 statewide average of 23 percent.

13 Winnebago County is considered a mandatory
14 managed care enrollment for Illinois Medicaid
15 recipients. After searching the provider directories
16 of the various managed Medicaid offerings in Winnebago
17 County, Beloit Memorial has no agreements with any of
18 them, further demonstrating Beloit's lack of commitment
19 to low-income populations in the Illinois area.

20 Thirdly, the freestanding emergency center
21 will raise the cost of health care in the region.
22 Emergency room visits are typically more expensive to
23 the patient through higher co-pays than would be
24 typical for immediate care visits. Secondly, for

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1 those patients currently utilizing the immediate care
2 facility at NorthPointe, their visits will be billed
3 as emergency room visits, thereby increasing the cost
4 for the various insurers such as Medicare and
5 employer-sponsored health insurance.

6 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: Please
7 conclude.

8 MR. STENERSON: Finally, the ambulance
9 services in the area provide a fantastic sophisticated
10 level of services. Because of these great services
11 that they provide, the nominal savings in travel time
12 will be surpassed by the sophistication of what they do.

13 Thank you for this opportunity to present my
14 comments.

15 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: No. 9.

16 MR. LEE: I'm Deputy Chief Derek Lee
17 with the Roscoe Police Department. That's D-e-r-e-k;
18 Lee, L-e-e. I'm a 16-year veteran with the police
19 department with 18 years of law enforcement experience.
20 I want to tell you a little bit about the Roscoe
21 Police Department.

22 We have 12 full-time officers and
23 2 part-time officers and these numbers include myself,
24 the chief, and a detective. At any given time we have

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1 approximately three officers on the street. So having
2 local access to an emergency care center would reduce
3 travel time for officers when dealing with an array of
4 different situations, a few of which I'll talk about.

5 When I speak about travel time, I want to
6 emphasize that in a smaller police department, having
7 even one officer out of the village for any given
8 amount of time reduces the department's ability to
9 police effectively. The sheriff's department added a
10 corrections transport van for this very reason, to
11 keep officers on the streets in their respective
12 cities and villages.

13 I'd like to share with you some reasons the
14 Roscoe Police Department is in support of the proposed
15 emergency care center.

16 Arrests for driving under influence of
17 alcohol or drugs require blood draws for evidential
18 purposes. In many scenarios the officers find
19 themselves dealing with suspects who have medical
20 issues, be it physical or mental. These subjects may
21 need to be seen by a licensed physician prior to being
22 taken to jail.

23 Roscoe police officers do respond,
24 obviously, to personal injury accidents on a regular

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1 basis. On many occasions officers need to respond to
2 emergency rooms in Beloit, Wisconsin, or Rockford,
3 Illinois, to speak with individual or individuals
4 involved in the accident. Travel times to Beloit and
5 Rockford may vary depending on the hospital, but
6 usually for round-trip the officer is going to be out
7 of the village for at least an hour.

8 In closing, I believe having an emergency
9 care center would benefit not only the Roscoe Police
10 Department but Rockton Police Department, South Beloit
11 Police Department, Winnebago County Sheriff's
12 Department, and the Illinois State Police.

13 Thank you.

14 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: No. 10.

15 MS. HEINZEROTH: Good morning and thank
16 you for the opportunity to speak this morning in support
17 of this project. My name is Mickey Heinzeroth;
18 M-i-c-k-e-y, H-e-i-n-z-e-r-o-t-h, executive director
19 of the Roscoe Area Chamber of Commerce, and I'm here
20 today as a concerned member of the community and on
21 behalf of the Chamber.

22 NorthPointe Health & Wellness is a great
23 community partner with the Chamber and has been since
24 it opened. In addition to the great medical care and

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1 wellness opportunity they offer, NorthPointe brings so
2 much to the community with sponsorships, events, and
3 volunteers.

4 This new emergency room project would serve
5 the 53,000 people that live within a 5-mile radius of
6 Roscoe, which I live in, which is the rural part, and
7 an additional 157,000 if you add a 10-mile radius.
8 Along with the 12 new permanent jobs in the emergency
9 room, there will be 6 new construction jobs created.

10 This area has great medical care from
11 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. every day, but that's not why
12 we're here. After 9:00 p.m. the closest care is
13 Rockford or Beloit, not that close when minutes count.

14 I have lived in this area for 14 years, and
15 for most of them a trip to the emergency room would
16 mean a minimum of 25 to 30 minutes. This may not
17 sound like a lot, but in an emergency situation it
18 could be a lifetime. An emergency room at NorthPointe
19 would make the trip 10 minutes for me and even less
20 for most of the residents.

21 I made that trip 20 years ago with my young
22 son when we lived in Rockford. We didn't call an
23 ambulance; the hospital was less than 10 minutes away,
24 and we had made this particular trip with him before;

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1 emergency treatments, overnight in the hospital, and
2 home the next day. But this time it was going to be
3 different. As soon as we arrived, he had a medical
4 crisis and was put on life support and was then
5 transferred to another hospital out of state. Had we
6 driven any further, the outcome would have been very
7 different.

8 My zip code shouldn't dictate the accessible
9 medical care. This project can be completed at a
10 minimum cost and is a critical need for this
11 community.

12 Thank you very much for your time.

13 MEMBER OLSON: Thank you.

14 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: 11.

15 MR. WILSON: Good morning. My name is
16 Kirk Wilson; K-i-r-k, W-i-l-s-o-n, and I'm the fire
17 chief for the Rockton Fire Protection District. I
18 would like to express the Fire District's support for
19 the freestanding emergency room that is being proposed
20 at the NorthPointe facility.

21 I've been in the fire service for over
22 30 years with 26 of those years as a full-time
23 paramedic, and I have witnessed firsthand the impact
24 on patient outcome when ambulance transport times are

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1 minimal.

2 Ambulance transport times from Rockton to
3 an emergency room in our region can range from 15 to
4 25 minutes, and having an emergency room closer to our
5 community can shorten those times, ensuring prompt
6 emergency intervention and increasing a patient's
7 chance of survival.

8 We give the patient the opportunity to
9 choose which hospital system they would like to be
10 transported to. However, if the medical staff
11 recognizes that a patient is suffering from a life
12 threatening medical crisis, we then transport to the
13 closest emergency department.

14 It is the policy of the Rockton Fire
15 Protection District, as well as our EMS resource
16 hospital's policy to transport patients suffering from
17 a life-threatening emergency to the closest emergency
18 room facility. Ambulance transport times to the
19 proposed NorthPointe facility will be dramatically
20 reduced.

21 Ambulance turnaround times or back-in-service
22 times are a concern of mine, as well. With the
23 ambulance transporting to a facility that's close to
24 home can only ensure that the ambulance will be back

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1 in service and ready to answer the next call for
2 service.

3 Again, with the support of our local EMS
4 providers, I believe the residents of Roscoe and
5 Rockton and South Beloit would greatly benefit from
6 NorthPointe providing a freestanding emergency room
7 facility within our communities.

8 Thank you.

9 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: No. 12.

10 MR. SHOEVLIN: Good morning. My name is
11 Don Shoevlin; D-o-n, S-h-o-e-v-l-i-n. I'm the fire
12 chief of the Harlem-Roscoe Fire Protection District.
13 On behalf of the fire protection district which I
14 serve, I'm here to voice support for the development
15 of an emergency room or center in our fire district.

16 Our fire district covers approximately
17 80 square miles. Over the past seven years since I
18 became chief, our fire protection district has seen
19 and continues to see substantial growth. Each year
20 this growth has increased the demand for emergency
21 services. Today we average 8 to 10 calls a day with
22 82 percent of them being medical in nature. At any
23 given time one of our three staff ALS ambulances can be
24 out of service on a call for two hours as we transport

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1 to one of four hospitals either in Rockford or Beloit.
2 It is not uncommon to have all three ambulances out
3 simultaneously on calls at any given time.

4 The possibility of this type of facility in
5 our district will have a direct effect in reducing
6 transport times, along with keeping our ACLS units in
7 the districts, which in turn will benefit our
8 residents and continue to keep us in the forefront of
9 emergency medical treatment.

10 We have a professional and well-established
11 relationship with Beloit Memorial Hospital, as we do
12 with other hospitals in the region. Adding a facility
13 of this nature to our community will make our district
14 a safer and healthier place to live.

15 Thank you.

16 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: 13.

17 MS. MARKS: Good morning. My name is
18 Chris Marks; C-h-r-i-s, M-a-r-k-s. I'm the Village
19 clerk of Roscoe, and I'm speaking in support of the
20 freestanding emergency center.

21 I would like to tell you what happened to
22 our planning and zoning administrator. Last Thursday
23 she was having chest pains and had a hard time breathing
24 in the middle of the night. She had to be rushed by her

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1 husband to St. Anthony Hospital, which took 25 minutes
2 of precious time. With this freestanding emergency
3 center, it would have taken less than 10 minutes, and
4 the treatment would have started much sooner. Today
5 she is having a heart procedure done and can't be here
6 to tell you herself. The results could have been
7 deadly in the amount of time it took her to get to the
8 emergency room.

9 This freestanding emergency center will be
10 lifesaving and is much needed in the community to keep
11 the residents of Roscoe, Rockton, and South Beloit
12 safe. What happened to her can and has happened to
13 others in the community. Life is valuable and time
14 can be life saving. That is why this freestanding
15 emergency center is urgently needed. Please don't let
16 someone die because they couldn't reach the hospital
17 fast enough. Thank you.

18 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: 14.

19 MEMBER OLSON: Do you have a release?

20 MS. MARKS: I'm speaking for myself.

21 MEMBER OLSON: Go ahead.

22 MR. ADAMS: I'm Dale Adams; D-a-l-e,
23 A-d-a-m-s. Thank you, Madam Chair, for allowing us an
24 opportunity to speak on this issue.

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1 Northern Illinois communities of Rockton,
2 Roscoe, South Beloit, as well as the surrounding area
3 pride ourselves on the quality of life we offer our
4 residents. By being able to offer the quality medical
5 facilities to all of our citizens, we help make the
6 entire area a more desirable place to live, work, and
7 do business.

8 We are in an area growing in population.
9 We're not losing population as some of our neighbors
10 are experiencing. In Rockton alone we've added 20 new
11 homes in the past year. Our region has over
12 10,000 households. We're approaching a population of
13 perhaps over 40,000, and that doesn't include any of
14 the nearby Wisconsin communities.

15 The nearest full-service hospital is 20 to
16 30 minutes away. An expanded NorthPointe facility
17 would cut response time in half. It would also
18 dramatically cut the time our emergency responders
19 would have to spend away from their posts in their
20 respective towns or areas.

21 For years NorthPointe has been a model
22 corporate citizen, providing both volunteers, time,
23 and resources to a variety of state-line-area events.
24 Examples of the projects NorthPointe has been involved

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1 with include at least two food drives each year to
2 help the Rockton food pantry; they sponsor a number of
3 activities for both Rockton and Roscoe Chambers of
4 Commerce; they're a major sponsor for Old Settlers
5 Days festival; they provide sideline physician
6 Dr. Kenneth Klein for Hononegah High School home
7 football games; they donate school supplies to school
8 districts; one of their members is an active board
9 member on our Stateline Mass Transit District, and that
10 list of community involvement goes on and on and on.

11 I'm unaware of community involvement to this
12 extent, basically to any extent, from any of the other
13 area local medical providers. Thank you.

14 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: No. 15.

15 MR. LARSON: Hello there. Thank you. I
16 am Gus; G-u-s, Larson, L-a-r-s-o-n, and I would like
17 to read a letter from Diane Richter of her NorthPointe
18 experience, and Diane is a patient and she is here in
19 the audience today.

20 "There is no doubt that NorthPointe and the
21 Beloit Health System saved my life. Two years ago in
22 October of 2012 when I was 68 I had a traumatic health
23 experience. Thanks to the kind concern of a stranger,
24 the quick response of the NorthPointe wellness staff,

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1 the immediate reaction of a highly trained emergency
2 team, and the expertise of Dr. Leo Egbujiobi, I now
3 celebrate my birthdays.

4 "After my first day of aqua aerobics at
5 NorthPointe wellness, I returned to the locker room.
6 My jaw and head hurt, and my arms were like lead
7 weights. Another member sensed my distress, put her
8 arm around me, and called instantly for help.

9 "Fortunately, NorthPointe Immediate Care
10 staff was right there. The team stabilized me in the
11 immediate care and sent me in an ambulance to the
12 Beloit Hospital where Dr. Egbujiobi and his heart and
13 vascular team awaited. My right coronary artery was
14 100 percent blocked, so Dr. Egbujiobi performed
15 emergency angioplasty.

16 "After a few days in the hospital, I was
17 home and making plans for cardiac rehab at the Beloit
18 Hospital and NorthPointe Wellness.

19 "I live in Clinton, Wisconsin, and gladly
20 drive the short distance to use NorthPointe. I also
21 have family in Rockton, and knowing NorthPointe could
22 be open 24 hours a day to care for them when needed
23 would be great. I am in support of NorthPointe
24 becoming a freestanding emergency center."

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1 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: No. 16.

2 MR. SCHULTZ: My name is Andy Schultz;
3 A-n-d-y, S-c-h-u-l-t-z. I'm the CEO and founder of
4 ATS Medical Services. We're a private ambulance
5 company provider located and headquartered in Loves
6 Park, Illinois. Our company also provides paramedic
7 staffing for several fire protection districts in the
8 northern Illinois area.

9 I have been working in EMS as a paramedic in
10 the state of Illinois for the past 28 years. I
11 started ATS in 2005 with a vision of improving the
12 prehospital services to all the communities. I feel
13 everyone associated with health care has an obligation
14 to provide the service that is in the best interest of
15 the community and the patients.

16 With that being said I want to go ahead and
17 show my support for the approval of the NorthPointe
18 Immediate Care to receive a CON for a freestanding
19 emergency center.

20 I feel the most important need for this
21 freestanding emergency center is to support the local
22 EMS providers that are in the surrounding areas. When
23 Roscoe, Rockton, or South Beloit has an ambulance
24 transport, they will typically transport these

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1 patients to one of the three Rockford hospitals or
2 Beloit Memorial Hospital. Either of these facilities
3 are equally 15 minutes further of driving depending on
4 traffic or inclement weather. The ability for
5 transporting these patients in less than half the time
6 will allow the EMS provider to return to services in
7 their communities much quicker.

8 And I feel it's also important to mention that
9 frequently the three hospitals in Rockford are extremely
10 busy, and when these local communities transport their
11 patients down there, there may not be beds available,
12 and they may have to wait 15 to 30 minutes in the
13 hallway, which then lengthens their time from being
14 out of service and protecting their community.

15 Thank you.

16 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: 17.

17 MS. SCHOONOVER: Thank you for this
18 opportunity. My name is Mayor Alice Schoonover with
19 the city of South Beloit. I have today -- I'd like to
20 present to you a resolution that was approved by our
21 full council on October 20th, but I'd also like to
22 address you not only as the mayor of South Beloit but
23 also a patient of Beloit Health System.

24 One thing I'd like you to note is that today

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1 you've got three -- the village president of Roscoe
2 and Rockton and the mayor, and we all agree that this
3 project is an important project to our communities.

4 We look at this as -- at the response time,
5 the turnaround time, the quality of care. And I want
6 to note to you that in South Beloit we have a 71 percent
7 population of low income in our schools that qualify
8 for reduced lunches. So there is a need. There is a
9 need for that kind of care for our low-income people.

10 And I apologize, I put these together quick.
11 But anyway, in the 24-hour care we also are looking at
12 economic development, jobs, and the quality of life
13 for the area.

14 I'd like to add that as a patient of Beloit
15 Health Service I've seen an increase in congestion and
16 wait time at the emergency room. We find ourselves
17 using the NorthPointe facility more and more. And I
18 also believe that as a health care -- as someone using
19 these health care facilities that we should have the
20 opportunity of choice. We've used Rockford Memorial
21 in the past, but it should be a personal choice.

22 So I thank you, and, again, I'm sorry I was
23 kind of disorganized.

24 MEMBER OLSON: That's okay. You

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1 were great.

2 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: No. 18, please.

3 MR. BROWN: Good morning. My name is
4 Gary Brown; G-a-r-y, B-r-o-w-n. I'm here representing
5 the city of South Beloit Fire Department in our
6 support of this project.

7 As the fire department, we mimic the same
8 concern that Harlem-Roscoe and Rockton have had with
9 turnaround times for ambulance transport times,
10 getting our resources back in this area. We have all
11 used each other during the times where we're out and,
12 you know, we have working agreements toward that
13 luckily. There are times in inclement weather or
14 natural just overall disasters or just busy days where
15 we're not available for each other because we're all
16 busy. Having an emergency room in the immediate area
17 would help alleviate that.

18 Having those services where we could get to
19 them, transport times within 10 minutes as opposed to
20 20 minutes is incredible for me as a fire department
21 administrator as well as the paramedic that's the guy
22 that's in the middle of the night out there doing it.

23 I still work on the ambulance every third
24 day. I'm the guy that comes to your house at 2:00 in

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1 the morning, and I'm the guy that holds your hand all
2 the way down to the hospital. And I've dedicated my
3 life to that service, and I love my job very much.
4 With that being said, as a paramedic I have
5 limitations. Our services grow every year, and we're
6 allowed to do more things to help the citizens, but we
7 are limited as to what we can do, and there are times
8 where we've done everything that we can do, and now
9 it's a long ride to Rockford, and going down Route 2
10 or 351 or I-90, those minutes become longer and it
11 gets stretched out.

12 As a person who has used the ambulance as a
13 patient and as a paramedic, those rides do become too
14 long. Having an emergency room in the area can help
15 us help patients and service them better.

16 I would hope that the people making the
17 decisions on this can see that there really -- the big
18 opposition is duplication of services and resources.
19 That's great because everybody gets there, and I would
20 rather have choices --

21 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: Please conclude
22 your comments --

23 MR. BROWN: -- than not. Thank you.

24 MEMBER OLSON: Thank you.

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1 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: 19.

2 MR. KRIENKE: My name is Dave Krienke,
3 Village of Roscoe Village president; D-a-v-e,
4 K-r-i-e-n-k-e. Once again, Madam Chair, thank you for
5 this opportunity to speak.

6 On behalf of the village of Roscoe residents
7 and Village board of trustees, I'm happy to speak in
8 support of the development of the freestanding
9 emergency center at the NorthPointe campus.

10 Currently there's a void in the emergency
11 health care services available within the villages of
12 Roscoe, Rockton, and South Beloit. The creation of
13 the NorthPointe emergency treatment center would allow
14 residents to have closer, faster access to emergency
15 medical treatment. The facility would be open 24 hours
16 a day, seven days a week. This is a vital concern for
17 the residents of Roscoe to have an emergency treatment
18 center available closer than 25 to 30 minutes.

19 Having this facility in Roscoe can save
20 lives. Beloit System, Inc., expansion of NorthPointe
21 Health & Wellness campus will additionally assist in
22 the economic development of the Village of Roscoe, not
23 only providing construction jobs during the expansion
24 and construction but also bring an additional 12 new

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1 jobs to our community.

2 On behalf of the Village of Roscoe Village
3 board, I would like to present Resolution 2014-R52
4 Resolution in Support of the Beloit Health System,
5 Inc., NorthPointe wellness campus.

6 Thank you very much.

7 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: Thank you.
8 No. 20.

9 MR. MC CORKLE: Hello and good day. I
10 am Dennis McCorkle, president of the Rockton Chamber
11 of Commerce; M-c-capital C-o-r-k-l-e. I would like to
12 thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of
13 the FSEC to NorthPointe campus.

14 As president of the Rockton Chamber of
15 Commerce representing its members of 120 businesses, I
16 would like to report that we are in full support.

17 It's clear that economic development also
18 drives social development. This facility addition
19 will bring an increase of tax revenues and income to
20 the community at the state line area. We all that
21 when we keep local dollars local, the velocity of
22 money increases. It goes back into the community much
23 faster.

24 We can offer a local ER facility for small

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1 business in need of medical services that do not have
2 that. Currently we talk about time in going to Beloit
3 Memorial or Rockford Memorial or one of the other
4 hospitals. We would now have a shortened time to go
5 to an ER facility.

6 It would also bring increased marketability
7 to the community for families seeking to move into the
8 area. It would support safety concerns for families,
9 schools, and businesses, all of which you've heard
10 that testimony today.

11 It will reduce the cost of EMSs out of the
12 area and time for diagnostic and treatment. Time is
13 critical. I can give you several personal examples,
14 but I don't have that time for you today. Three family
15 members and all are alive today because of shortened
16 distance to an immediate care or an intermediate
17 emergency room center.

18 It will survive -- it will serve as an ER to
19 stabilize critical patients before transfer to another
20 area, and it will be an intermediate care facility.
21 It will creates jobs in the future, create jobs now.

22 So in short, supporting businesses to improve
23 their services generates much wider community benefits
24 and ultimately benefits the whole region. The

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1 addition of the FSEC to NorthPointe will increase our
2 community's potential growth, safety, social, economic
3 development.

4 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: No. 22.

5 (No response.)

6 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: No. 22. The
7 number is on the yellow sheet in the right-hand
8 corner.

9 (No response.)

10 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: 23.

11 MR. DANIELS: Good afternoon. I am
12 Don Daniels; D-o-n, D-a-n-i-e-l-s. I'm chief
13 operating officer for SwedishAmerican Health System.
14 We operate hospitals, outpatient facilities, and
15 clinics in many northern Illinois communities including
16 Roscoe. SwedishAmerican opposes the application filed
17 by Beloit Health System to establish a new freestanding
18 emergency center in Roscoe.

19 Beloit admits in its own CON application
20 there is existing market capacity. Beloit's own data
21 shows that the three nearby Rockford hospitals have
22 95 ED stations while 2012 actual patient visits
23 supported only 84 stations again based on the State's
24 standard. The most recent hospital profiles show

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1 calendar 2013 ED volume declined across the board and
2 now support only 75 station target utilization.

3 In addition to excess capacity, Beloit has
4 also grossly overestimated its projected patient visits.
5 Their projections almost exclusively rely on those who
6 are utilizing Beloit's immediate care facility in
7 Roscoe. Those patients obviously are not in need of
8 expensive emergency services and therefore should not
9 be used as a basis for projecting utilization for
10 emergency services.

11 Time does not permit me to go into detail
12 regarding costs except to say it is recognized that
13 emergency services have much higher costs and are much
14 more expensive than other, more appropriate sites of
15 care. Health care costs for such patients will
16 increase dramatically regardless of payer.

17 I'm also submitting a letter from our
18 outside legal counsel citing provisions in the EMS Act
19 and Hospital Licensing Act that require an FEC to be
20 owned and operated by an Illinois hospital licensed
21 by IDPH.

22 SwedishAmerican respectfully requests the
23 Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
24 to deny the CON application for the NorthPointe

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1 freestanding emergency center.

2 Thank you for your time and attention.

3 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: No. 24.

4 MR. BENKOVICH: My name is Jim Benkovich,
5 B-e-n-k-o-v-i-c-h. I've been a lifelong resident of
6 the Roscoe area. I'd like to say good morning and
7 thank you for giving me the opportunity to voice my
8 support for the proposed 24/7 emergency facility at
9 NorthPointe.

10 I served on the local Hononegah High School
11 board for 18 years, 6 as president. I was also scout
12 master of Troop 620, and on the board of Northern
13 Illinois Epilepsy, and last year elected as supervisor
14 of Roscoe Township. I'm representing myself, not
15 Roscoe Township, and I wholeheartedly support
16 NorthPointe's proposed emergency facility.

17 I've had many family members who would have
18 benefitted from the close proximity this emergency
19 facility will provide, and I have several family
20 members who currently take advantage of the existing
21 medical services provided by NorthPointe.

22 In closing, many area folks will benefit
23 from the local access to 24/7 emergency services and
24 the reduced travel time which may save lives.

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1 Thank you.

2 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: I'm just going
3 to go call No. 22 one more time.

4 (No response.)

5 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: Conclusion. Is
6 there anyone who wishes to testify who has not had an
7 opportunity?

8 (No response.)

9 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: Hearing none,
10 is there anyone who has testified who wishes to
11 provide additional testimony?

12 (No response.)

13 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: Please note
14 that this project is tentatively scheduled for
15 consideration by the Board at its November 12th, 2014,
16 meeting.

17 The meeting will be held in Roscoe,
18 Illinois.

19 MEMBER OLSON: Rochelle.

20 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: I'm sorry --
21 Rochelle. It's Rochelle -- Rochelle, Illinois, at the
22 Rochelle Airport, 1207 West Gurler Road. Please refer
23 to the HFSRB website at www.hfsrb@Illinois.gov for
24 more details and possible agenda changes.

1 I ask that you please prepare to take note
2 of the following times and dates:

3 The deadline to submit signed written
4 comments pertaining to this project is 9:00 a.m. ,
5 October 23rd, 2014.

6 The State Board staff report will be posted
7 at www.hfsrb.illinois.gov/sars.htm on October 29th.
8 The deadline to submit written responses to the State
9 Board staff report is 9:00 a.m. , November 3rd, 2014.

10 Written comments and responses should be
11 sent to the Illinois Health Facilities and Services
12 Review Board, Attention: Courtney Avery, Administrator,
13 525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor, Springfield,
14 Illinois 62761.

15 Are there any questions?

16 (No response.)

17 HEARING OFFICER CLARKE: Hearing that
18 there are no additional questions or comments, I deem
19 this public hearing adjourned. Thank you for your
20 participation in today's proceedings.

21 MEMBER OLSON: Thanks for coming.

22 PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED AT 12:30 P.M.
23
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