



CITY OF OTTAWA AND OSF HEALTHCARE CONTINUE TALKS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ottawa, IL (August 30, 2024) – OSF HealthCare will be asking for a six-month deferral from the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board regarding its certificate of need (CON) applications. The CON applications addressed the construction of a new facility in Ottawa and the demolition of the existing OSF HealthCare Saint Elizabeth Medical Center building once the new facility is completed. Pausing the project will allow more time to discuss the regional model of care and the enhanced plan for the new hospital with the City of Ottawa.

"We appreciate the response from OSF to pause, listen to feedback, and have a dialogue with the city," said Robert Hasty, mayor of the City of Ottawa. "All signs point to a continued partnership where both parties are committed to ensuring a shared understanding of local and national health trends and what it takes to be financially sustainable while providing the absolute best in patient care."

August Querciagrossa, CEO of the Western Region for OSF HealthCare, added, "This deferral period is an opportunity for us to deepen our collaboration and understanding with the City of Ottawa on the regional health care delivery model. We are dedicated to delivering health care solutions that meet the needs of all the communities in Bureau, Putnam, and LaSalle Counties. Our goal remains steadfast – to serve with the greatest care and love while providing exceptional care through a model that offers long-term viability."

"As the Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, I have been pleased to be included in the joint meetings regarding medical needs in our area," stated Jay McCracken. "The Chamber remains committed to working closely with the City of Ottawa and OSF to ensure the best possible healthcare for all citizens. Our business community cares deeply about partnerships that lead to excellence in medical services for everyone."

"Our vision is to continue specialized services in Ottawa and throughout the region, with each location dedicated to delivering exceptional care," said Querciagrossa. "This will allow us to attract and retain top talent, ensuring our patients receive care from experts in fully staffed, well-equipped facilities. This strategy will not only elevate the quality of care but also support the long-term sustainability of our health care system in Ottawa and beyond."