Continuing Christ’s Ministry in our Franciscan Tradition

Franciscan St. James Health takes its mission of joyful service to heart. Where there is a need, the healthcare network, its staff and physicians work to fill it – extending the generosity of Franciscan St. James well beyond the walls of its hospitals, clinics, physician practices and urgent care centers. The hospital donated more than $30 million in unreimbursed healthcare in 2014. Through its Mission Services, Franciscan St. James provides:

Medical Outreach: The Franciscan Primary Care Clinic provides a welcoming place to receive regular healthcare for those without the means to pay. The clinic is staffed by physicians and diagnostic services are available.

Prenatal Care: As a partner with Pregnancy Assistance for the South Suburbs, this initiative provides young women with an anonymous, safe place for care and assistance.

Clothing Assistance: Hospital-funded clothing closets mean patients never go home without clothing that is appropriate for their destination and the weather – including shoes, socks, coats, hats, gloves.

Domestic Violence Prevention: In collaboration with South Suburban Family Shelter, this program located in the emergency departments provides on-site assistance for patients who have been the victims of domestic violence.

Nutritional Support: In addition to donations to local pantries, Franciscan St. James provides healthy snacks to after-school programs, community park districts and libraries.

Transportation Help: When lack of transportation became an impediment to care, Franciscan St. James started its own transportation service to help patients get to and from appointments.

Franciscan St. James Health develops strategic restructuring plan to meet community needs

Hospital proposes $137 million investment in the Southland

Sisters of St. Francis continue Christ’s ministry in their Franciscan tradition

Franciscan St. James Health
Franciscan St. James Health develops strategic restructuring plan to meet community needs

Healthcare is changing and so are we. Like every other hospital system in the country, Franciscan St. James has been given the task to minister to the health of the community outside of the hospital setting – to create healthier individuals who do not need to be hospitalized as often and manage chronic illnesses in the outpatient setting.

What that means for the communities we serve is a diminishing need for inpatient hospital rooms and a corresponding demand to increase the number of ways patients can have their healthcare needs addressed throughout the communities that make up Chicago Southland.

Over the last 18 months, leaders at Franciscan St. James examined every opportunity to maintain both hospital campuses and found that it is not economically feasible.

We had discussions with the community and made choices we believe are in the best interests of our patients today and in the decades to come.

The Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration have decided to transition two Franciscan St. James Health facilities in Chicago Southland to a single campus and expanding primary care services. Hospitalizations for hospitalization. The result: the need dramatically reduced – and in some cases eliminated – the need for hospitalization. The result: the need dramatically reduced – and in some cases eliminated – the need for hospitalization.

What else is driving change?

Significant operational issues

Franciscan St. James Health cannot continue to operate on a deficit and remain a healthcare provider in the Southland. The only option: restructure the health system and bring all acute-care services under one roof.

Duplication of services

Consolidating services within a single facility will improve the quality of care, enhance the patient experience and reduce costs.

Maintenance of aging facilities

At 100 years in age and counting – the Chicago Heights campus has shown its age. With $80 million in maintenance and compliance costs over the next five years, the physical building cannot provide the quality of care our patients require.

Population health management

The Olympia Fields campus has ample space and access for expansion and growth while Chicago Heights is a site as a center for 24/7 expanded urgent care, behavioral health, rehabilitation, diabetes services, bariatrics and weight loss.

What’s next?

Our Certificate of Need hearing begins at 3:30 p.m. Feb. 9 at Bloom Township High School, OF W 50th St., Chicago Heights.

We want to hear from you!

Your opinion matters to us. Please feel free to email Maria Ramos, Vice President of Marketing and Communications at Franciscan St. James Health, at Maria.Ramos@franciscanalliance.org.

$137 MILLION INVESTMENT IN COMMUNITY

Plan consolidates acute-care services at one location, expands primary care throughout Southland communities

Imagine: A network that keeps you healthy through preventive and primary care. Hospitalizations targeted to get you back to your life sooner.

Healthcare delivery that is second to none.

Franciscan St. James Health has a plan to transform healthcare by consolidating acute-care services at a single campus and expanding primary care throughout the region.

This $137 million plan will add services our population desperately needs by eliminating redundancies we cannot afford,” said Arnie Kimmel, President and CEO of Franciscan St. James Health.

“We developed this proposal in concert with our leadership, industry professionals and community members. Once fully implemented, Franciscan St. James will have the optimum system of care.”

Vital components to the plan:

- Modernizing and upgrading facilities that already exist to make them cost-effective, easy to navigate and convenient.
- Renovating outdated physical structures with modern buildings that make sense for patient healthcare today – and in the decades to come.
- Working to bridge transportation issues so they are never impediments to care.

“We are proposing a thoughtful plan for change,” he said. “What will never change. The commitment of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration to provide for the health and well-being of individuals who call the Southland home.”

Additional information:

- Expanded urgent care – double the size – and staffed by physicians 24/7
- Outpatient Behavioral Health
- Outpatient Neurorehabilitation
- Renovated/expanded parking

Our Chicago Heights plan includes major efforts at two sites in the city. The Dixie Highway at Vollmer Road complex will include:

- Expanded urgent care – double the size – and staffed by physicians 24/7
- Outpatient Behavioral Health
- Outpatient Neurorehabilitation

The existing hospital site will be renovated to include:

- Bariatrics/weight loss
- Diabetes services
- Expanded primary care
- Outpatient pharmacy

Additionally, we are talking to developers about the possibility of repurposing parts of the campus.