



Resolution 24-1 SUPPORTING COLLABORATION AND HEALTH EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS IN EFFORTS RELATED TO HOSPITAL SISTER HEALTH SYSTEM (HSHS) AND PREVEA HEALTH CLOSURE

WHEREAS, Hospital Sister Health System (HSHS) and Prevea Health have been providing quality healthcare and services to the residents in Eau Claire County and across the western region of the State with Sacred Heart and St. Joseph's accounting for approximately 30% of total hospitalizations in 2022; and

WHEREAS, HSHS and Prevea have provided critical inpatient and outpatient services related to key community health priorities including mental health, alcohol misuse, and substance misuse including in 2022 providing the majority of inpatient psychiatric and AODA treatment services; and

WHEREAS, HSHS and Prevea health have employed approximately 1,400 individuals in the western part of Wisconsin and provided healthcare employment and healthcare education to countless individuals; and

WHEREAS, Sacred Heart has been one of the larger birthing hospitals in the area, accounting for 44% (754) of births among Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls hospitals in 2022 including births covered by Medicaid/Badgercare; and

WHEREAS, hospital data indicates that HSHS has provided inpatient care to a significant proportion of individuals with Medicaid with 26% of hospitalizations at Sacred Heart and 35% of hospitalizations at St. Joseph being patients with Medicaid/Badgercare compared to 20% at Mayo Clinic Health System and 22% at Marshfield Clinic Health System; and

WHEREAS, Prevea has provided clinical services in Augusta in Eau Claire County and rural parts of many other neighboring counties which has supported rural populations who have additional barriers to receiving preventive and maintenance healthcare services for chronic and acute conditions; and

WHEREAS, the public health role is to collect and analyze population health data, convene partners for collaborative action, and assure health equity for populations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Eau Claire City-County Board of Health directs the Health Department to engage in collaborative, data-based, and health equity focused efforts during this transition and calls upon HSHS and Prevea leadership to productively engage to ensure access to quality medical service within the community for the health and well-being of patients and all residents, particularly those with the biggest barriers.


Don Bodeau, President
Eau Claire City-County Board of Health

2-28-24
Date