September 7, 2017

Franciscan Partnership Exploration Update #4: Ensuring Access to the Full Range of Care

As Methodist Hospitals completes the remaining steps to forming a proposed partnership with Franciscan Alliance, we remain focused on ensuring that every segment of our population has access to the full range of health services they have entrusted our hospitals to provide.

This partnership will ultimately allow Methodist Hospitals to expand and enhance the quality of care available to patients in the Gary and Merrillville communities and our region as a whole. But we have heard concerns expressed about the religious and ethical directives in Catholic health systems such as Franciscan.

Catholic hospitals are an important part of the fabric of health care in our society and have historically played a leading role in caring for underserved and minority populations. While a partnership with Franciscan will require Methodist Hospitals’ medical staff to adhere to The Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services, we have worked with Franciscan to ensure that all patients will retain access to necessary care and that Methodist Hospitals does not abandon or deviate from our mission to serve all members of our community.

Methodist Hospitals’ proposed agreement with Franciscan includes a provision that our employed physicians and other practitioners would be able to operate limited independent practices providing reproductive health services.

The agreement also provides that Methodist will set aside $5 to $10 million prior to completing the transaction to support the provision of services that could not be performed within our hospitals once we have joined Franciscan Alliance. Franciscan also will make ethicists available to Methodist Hospitals leadership and physicians to help navigate the new processes and procedures.

Please know that Methodist Hospitals’ leadership and Board are carefully evaluating all components of this partnership opportunity to ensure that our physicians and employees are fully supported as they continue providing the quality care and services that our patients deserve. As we finalize our agreement with Franciscan, we will continue to fulfill our mission of putting patients first and doing what is best and right for our community and all of our patients who rely on us for care.

Sincerely,

Raymond Grady, President and CEO