

8.22.18

Determination of Need Public Hearing Testimony

Dr. Steven Sbardella

Good evening, my name is Steven Sbardella. I am an emergency medicine physician with more than 25 years of experience in the Medford community. I am also senior vice president of clinical operations and chief medical officer at MelroseWakefield Healthcare. Thank you for the opportunity to speak here tonight and share with you our request to bring an ambulatory surgery center to the Lawrence Memorial Hospital campus.

As a community healthcare system, we are committed to focusing on services that provide excellence, quality, and convenience, that meet the needs of patients in the most cost-efficient setting. Advances in care and technology are changing healthcare delivery. As part of that change there is progressive, safe, transition of services from the inpatient environment into the outpatient , all of which is meant to be a benefit for patients. Our proposed ambulatory surgery center will bring state-of-the-art care and services in a lower-cost, efficient setting consistent with the changing needs of patient care.

It wasn't that long ago that all surgeries were done in a hospital setting and a number of those patients were admitted into the hospital to receive their initial

post-op care. A common example is gallbladder surgery. Most patients were expected to be admitted to a hospital for a day or two, and sometimes up to a week. Today that has changed where a patient, if screened to be appropriate, may go home safely the same day of surgery. Another example focuses on joint replacement. In 2016 an estimated 15% of patients receiving a partial or total knee replacement were sent home on the day of surgery. That estimate is predicted to shoot up to 51% by 2026. This is the level of excellence we will bring to our patients locally.

An ambulatory surgery center provides high-quality, efficient care and offers a great deal of convenience for patients who require less-complex, “day-surgery” procedures. There is an economic benefit for patients also. On average, these procedures cost 25 to 48% less than in a hospital-based setting. It’s important to point out that patients with complex medical needs who are not appropriate to be cared for in an ambulatory surgery setting will continue to be cared for in the right hospital-based setting that provides for all their needs, be it MelroseWakefield Hospital or other.

Our proposed plans for an Ambulatory Surgery Center will bring Tufts Medical Center physicians along with other expert community surgeons in orthopedics, ENT, gastroenterology and other specialties to the Lawrence Memorial Hospital campus to provide services locally for patients. It provides

opportunities for high quality clinical jobs in the community and growing partnerships with local physicians and other service providers.

We are partnering with Shields Health Care on this project. They are a highly reputable organization with noted success in the development of ambulatory surgery care. They have had similar successful projects with renowned New England Baptist Hospital and UMass Memorial Medical Center. Our services will greatly benefit from this experience.

For these reasons, I ask that you approve our request for an ambulatory surgery center at the Lawrence Memorial Hospital campus.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak before you this evening.