



March 10, 2025

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Dear Commissioner Delaney:

I am writing to you as the President/CEO of Parrish Medical Center (PMC), Brevard's only public hospital, so that I may express my concerns regarding the sudden announcement of the closing of Orlando Health Rockledge Hospital. Never in my 41 years in healthcare have I witnessed such a careless disregard for the health of a community by a healthcare provider. This immediate issue must be addressed for the betterment of that community.

My other concern focuses around the consequences that this hospital closing will have upon PMC's ability to fulfill its mission of caring for the community of North Brevard. And, I may add, there will certainly be negative impacts upon all hospitals, urgent care centers, physician offices, and local/county government, within Brevard County. With little or no concern, Orlando Health's actions have now created significant service, community and financial problems for the remainder of us!

In generalities, the consequences to PMC and North Brevard are:

Service Impacts:

1. There will be negative effects on patient wait times in our Emergency Department as volumes will increase.
2. There will be significant wait times for all County and Titusville Emergency vehicles to get back on the road, thus delaying their response times for all citizens.
3. As patients will be traveling longer distances from Rockledge in order to arrive at our Emergency Department, this could cause their health to decline prior to arrival, which then demands enhanced patient care.
4. As our Emergency Department wait times increase, this will have a "trickle-down" impact on all of the departments that provide support to the Emergency Department, such as radiology, laboratory, etc. Again, we can only accommodate so many additional patients with the resources (space and staff) that we have.
5. The negative effects to these support departments will then affect our ability to care for patients on our patient floors as these patients will end up staying in our hospital longer because treatments and tests for Emergency Department patients

takes precedent over patients that are on our patient floors (there are obviously exceptions such as ICU patients).

Community Impact:

1. The North Brevard community will certainly see longer wait times in our Emergency Department. There are urgent care centers that can absorb some of the additional volume with their expansion of hours. This would hold true for the limited number of physician offices that might expand their office hours as well.
2. There will be a negative impact economically as the Rockledge Hospital interacts with many local businesses.

Financial Impact:

1. It is more than likely that in the aggregate, Parrish Medical Center, as the County's only public hospital, will bear the brunt of serving the lower income members of the Rockledge community. The maldistribution of this financial burden could negatively affect PMC to the tune of tens of millions of dollars in a year. As an example, PMC currently, on an annual basis, absorbs almost \$30 million in uncompensated care. The Rockledge Hospital has roughly the same level of uncompensated care that it absorbs. Where will this uncompensated care now go?
2. We can only increase our staffing so much given the restrictions of space. Thus, within the confines of space, accommodating additional patients could come at an approximate cost of about \$5 - 15 million per year.

What is my ask:

There should be an immediate review of this hospital closure by State authorities. It is unfathomable that a hospital is allowed to close without State review of the consequences of such a closure. And, that review must require a contingency plan be put in place for the community.

We'd like to see financial support from both Orlando Health and the Space Coast Health Foundation (SCHF) should the burden for solutions be placed upon the existing service organizations and government entities in Brevard County.

Money from both of them could be allocated, based on volume/payor mix, reimbursement (some agreed upon equation) for unreimbursed care to the citizens of Rockledge and the surrounding area. Due to the fact that it would require organizations such as Health First and PMC to commit to additional resources and staff, there must be a minimum of a 3 year commitment from any funding source. Should these monies not be sufficient, a "look back" by an independent audit firm should occur at the end of each year for an immediate reallocation of additional monies.

In addition, Orlando Health and the SCHF should contribute the monies necessary for the City of Rockledge and/or Brevard County to enhance the 911 EMS system for the rapid response and/or transport of patients when required. Again, this should be a 3 year commitment.

I greatly appreciate your review of my concerns. Please let me know should you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George Mikitarian', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

George Mikitarian, DHA
President/CEO