



BROOKS-TLC HOSPITAL SYSTEM, INC.

A message to staff and the community on behalf of Ken Morris, President and CEO

December 30, 2022

As we look to 2023 with increased optimism for the new hospital project coming to fruition, it is important to discuss concerns expressed in the community about what services are currently offered at Brooks-TLC as well as the proposed down-sizing of our future hospital. To do this, I find it appropriate to repeat a sentence from the closing paragraph of my Nov. 12 message – with key words underlined.

*This is a **once in a lifetime opportunity** to see a new regional hospital, **one built to reflect what our community needs and one which expands access to and improves quality care for a more diverse regional patient base.***

In order to develop an improved sustainable hospital model, *one which reflects what our community needs*, we, like other healthcare providers, have had to recognize a shift which came out of the pandemic. Rather than providing **reactive care** (responding to an illness or medical situation *after* occurrence) we need to build a health system that focuses on enabling every single person to reach his or her best health potential with **preventive care**.

Preventive healthcare is exactly what its name implies – prevention of illness. Preventive healthcare decreases the burden of disease and associated risk factors for the person and, when practiced over all stages of life and across the disease spectrum, prevents further decline over time. Preventive care is also less costly to provide. I liken it to maintaining your home's infrastructure. If you ignore a leaky pipe long enough, rather than a simple problem which can be warded off cost effectively, you end up with damaged walls, potential serious hazards and a larger repair bill in response to the problem.

Brooks-TLC already has, and is committed to, this preventive care. Preventive services currently offered are as follows:

- Diagnostic Services: Laboratory/Radiology
- Internal Medicine / Primary Care
- Gastroenterology
- Outpatient Physical Therapy/Sports Medicine
- Urology
- General Surgery
- Women's Health

Additionally, let's not forget about all our other services currently offered:

- Emergency Care
- Eye Care
- Cardiology / Cardiac Rehabilitation
- Chemical Dependency/Substance Abuse
- Inpatient Physical Therapy
- Wound Care Center

- Infusion Center
- Podiatry / Foot Care
- Oncology
- Orthopedic Care
- Surgical Services
- Inpatient medicine / Hospitalists
- Urgent Care

Therefore, we as an organization continue to evaluate all existing service lines and continue to transition from a reactive inpatient based care model to a preventative outpatient care model. This strategy is included in our future campus plan of the 15-bed facility and a medical office building. With our new campus, we aim to incorporate this list of services that makes sense for our population. Focusing our resources and recruiting high quality providers that can lead these care initiatives, are also an important part of this strategy. Our organization is on a path to execute this plan at a new location that improves access to our region. Together, with support from all communities and their leaders, we hope to move forward with the new hospital in the near future.

To our employees and our medical staff, thank you for your commitment to work and serve our community. To our community, thank you for supporting your local hospital and the local physicians that support Brooks-TLC. Together, we will continue to strive to provide the best quality care.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2023.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Morris', with a stylized, cursive style.

Ken Morris