

Jon L. Pryor, MD, MBA, CEO

Welcome – and thank you for all for being here.

A special welcome and thank you to our guests from the neighborhood, the Hennepin Healthcare System Board, Hennepin County board, Minneapolis officials, downtown neighbors, and our patients, colleagues, and friends. You are on the site of the future of healthcare in downtown Minneapolis - in a neighborhood that is the historic home to healthcare in the Twin Cities.

The last major groundbreaking on this campus was in August of 1972 when they broke ground for the “new” Hennepin County Medical Center just across the street. To be honest, the neighborhood did not change much from the 1970s until just last year, with the coming of the new Vikings stadium. Today, this is the most dynamic and fastest growing neighborhood in the Twin Cities.

Look around when you leave today and you’ll see some of what’s coming:

- The Portland Towers condominium and the Kraus Anderson corporate headquarters, hotel, apartment, and brewery complex to the west
- several exciting new apartment developments to the south
- a new freeway entrance to the east
- the U.S. Bank stadium, the Wells Fargo corporate campus and the commons park to the north
- and...the House of Charity housing and food program development right next door to our campus.

It’s an amazing transformation in an area where more and more people will live, work, learn and play...and this spot – right here where we’re standing - is where they all will come to get healthy and to stay healthy.

We are building a new center of caring and hope that embraces our diverse cultures and communities and fits comfortably into this vibrant, eclectic, and connected neighborhood in downtown Minneapolis.

We are building a place of wellness that is centralized and accessible with underground parking and skyway, tunnel and transit access. It will be convenient for patients coming from outside of downtown with easy access to and from major highways. This is OUR project – and by OUR, I mean our patients, our employees and our neighbors - who have been involved in the planning every step of the way. We

have incorporated Lean thinking into the design to drive out waste in processes and lead us to create a world-class clinic and specialty center that will meet the growing need for innovative, high quality, high-demand medical care in downtown Minneapolis and the Twin Cities region.

This facility is one big piece of our expanding clinic system, but, as you know, Hennepin Healthcare System is about more than the care we provide in our clinics. We have a history of leadership in the state and nationally for the trauma care that we provide to adults and children.

Part of our program this afternoon will be your opportunity to witness the best trauma center in the region becoming even better when we open our new helistop.

Now I would like to introduce a very important leader and partner in the life of Hennepin Healthcare System: Sharon Sayles Belton, the Chair of the HHS Board of Directors. You already know that she served as mayor of Minneapolis during a time of great growth in downtown Minneapolis. What you may not know, is that in high school, she was a volunteer candy striper at Mt. Sinai hospital, and later worked as a nurse's aide, and her family has been connected to HCMC for many, many years.

We have been so fortunate to have her lead our Hennepin Healthcare System board of directors and it is my pleasure to invite her to speak this afternoon.

Sharon Sayles Belton, chair, Hennepin Healthcare System board

Thank you Dr. Pryor and welcome to all of the special guests, friends, neighbors, colleagues and community leaders who have joined us today.

It's a great day for Hennepin Healthcare System and a great day for downtown Minneapolis! It is my honor to be here on behalf of the Hennepin Healthcare System board of directors.

You may recall that what we know as the Hennepin Healthcare System today was created in 2006 by legislative action at the request of the Hennepin County Board. It was my pleasure and privilege to serve on a citizens task force that looked at the changing economic environment for public hospitals and, quite frankly, the condition of HCMC and its ability to change to meet the changing needs. The task force determined that a new governance structure was needed, and I commend the county board for having confidence in the new structure and for being so supportive over these past nine years.

The task force determined that an infusion of capital funding was needed, and the county board committed \$100 million dollars to a new Whittier Clinic; all new Intensive Care Units, which are state-of-the-art; and to help fund a new downtown clinic building.

The HHS board looked at a lot of options for where to build this facility and how to configure the campus. We determined that this site made the most sense – because we are able to transform these underused parking lots into a new center for healing in a neighborhood that we are deeply connected to. This is where we are building the foundation for our growing network of clinics – right here in Elliot Park. HCMC has been a good neighbor, a major employer, and a community partner and with this project we are committing to be part of the continued transformation of the east side of downtown Minneapolis for many years to come.

We could not do this without the support of the Hennepin County Board and administration. The county has entrusted us to advance the mission of the hospital to provide exceptional care without exception – and we are committed to doing just that!

Now I would like to introduce the vice chair of the Hennepin County Board, Linda Higgins, to speak on behalf of the county board, that has been so supportive of this jewel of a healthcare system.

Linda Higgins, vice chair, Hennepin County board

Hennepin County is proud of the Hennepin Healthcare System and HCMC. We are proud of the care that is provided on this campus and in neighborhood clinics across the county. We are proud of the teaching program that prepares the healthcare providers of tomorrow to work in hospitals and clinics across the state and across the country. In fact, right now, one of the graduates of our residency programs has taken his service to even greater heights as an astronaut orbiting the earth in the international space station. We are proud of the innovative programs that deliver care more effectively and efficiently to your patients. And we are pleased to partner with HCMC in the Hennepin Health program, and the HCMC/NorthPoint Advantage Plan, and the Be Well Clinic...just to name a few.

This new building that will rise on this site is supported by an investment from our original commitment to improve the facilities that the County Board made in 2006, and financed with bonds issued by Hennepin County that will be serviced by the operating incomes of Hennepin Healthcare System, Inc. This is a partnership that makes sense for the county and for our taxpayers.

We can be as proud of what we're building here as we are proud of HCMC's history of serving our region as the premier trauma center. Hennepin County is committed to being a good neighbor in the many communities across the county. On this project, our county staff worked closely with the Elliot Park Neighborhood to get their input, involvement, and eventual approvals as this project developed.

Lynn Regnier – no transcript

Scott Wordelman, FACHE, Vice President Ambulator

Thank you Lynn. I'm Scott Wordelman, Vice President Ambulatory Delivery and Support Services.

We have been humbled by the passionate support of our neighbors on this project and look forward to continuing to work with you and the other residents and businesses in this great neighborhood. Our clinic system is growing. In each of the past two years we have served 6 percent more patients than in the year before. Last year we cared for 650,000 patients in our clinics. Not just downtown, but in clinics in Golden Valley, St. Anthony Village, Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, Richfield, East Lake and Whittier. In downtown Minneapolis we have 40 primary care and specialty care clinics spread across nine buildings that we own or lease - and we have seen a study that shows the capacity of the current facilities downtown will be maxed out by 2017.

It isn't an easy campus to navigate, and we are grateful to our patients for staying with us as we tell them to enter one building, walk two blocks of hallways and take an elevator, and then go another block down a hallway to get to their clinic appointment. With this building that will change.

I join the others in thanking the county board and the health system board for supporting the work of literally hundreds of staff members - and many patients - who have toiled for several years to make this a reality. I want to recognize Dr. Steve Sterner, who has worked toward this vision for almost 30 years. I also want to recognize our partners Mortenson, the general contractor, BWBR the architects, and all of the other trades that will part of this project. We are proud to embrace the aggressive county goals for Small Business Enterprise, workforce diversity goals, and Workforce Entry Program.

This will be a centerpiece of our campus and the center of healthcare in downtown Minneapolis. Six floors of Primary care, specialty care, physical therapy/occupational therapy, Same day surgery center, Cancer Center with Radiation Therapy, Imaging Center and more. Two levels of underground parking for patients and their families and skyway and tunnel connectivity to the rest of our campus.

We can't wait to get started building our future, so I'd like to invite the participants in the groundbreaking to come forward. While they do, I want to tell you that hundreds of our employees were here yesterday doing the same thing. Getting their hands on shovels and turning the dirt. It is their building, and they will continue to be part of the process as we move forward.

After the groundbreaking we will continue with our program and turn our attention to the helistop that will open on top of the Red Building across the street. A very special guest will be landing in just a few minutes.

Now, time to break ground.

Michael Belzer, MD, Medical Director & Chief Medical Officer

I'm Michael Belzer, Medical Director and Chief Medical Officer.

I want to briefly explain the deep connection between this neighborhood and health care. Elliot Park is named after Dr. Jacob S. Elliot, who along with his wife donated the original land for the Park across from our Blue building in 1883. Minneapolis was a milling town, and the Mill City neighborhood, on the other side of the stadium and commons, was the center of the action. Milling was dangerous work, and soon a healthcare community started to grow in the Elliot Park neighborhood to take care of the injured and sick from the mills.

The first facilities - like City Hospital - started in rented houses. Over the next 60 years, healthcare facilities in this neighborhood grew like wild fire to a peak of five major care institutions and numerous hospitals all around this corner of downtown by the early 1950s. Cottage Hospital, Minneapolis General, Asbury Methodist, Swedish, St. Barnabas, Mt. Sinai, Metropolitan Medical Center and Hennepin County Medical Center.

And today the needs of our seniors continue to be well served by Augustana Care, now a major provider in the metro area with its headquarters still in this neighborhood. So roots of the Hennepin Healthcare System run very, very deep in this neighborhood and from those roots has grown the next generation of innovative, convenient, patient centered care and a world class Level I trauma center.

We are witnessing today an ultimate expression of generosity by our civic leaders, community partners and county residents as we break ground. Generosity happens here because people give in different ways. We know that it can be an important part of the healing process and provide an opportunity to answer the call for greater community service. I want you to know that the Hennepin Health Foundation welcomes conversations on how you may see yourself or your business advance the mission in our new building or with any of our exceptional healthcare programs. Your generosity can heal.

I'd like to welcome Dr. William Heegaard to tell us about the other major event we are celebrating today.

Bill Heegaard, MD, MPH, Chief Clinical Officer

Good Afternoon. Thanks Mick for that great walk through history. It is hard to believe there could be more excitement after breaking ground on our new clinic site but there is and it is related to our history of leadership in trauma. We were the first Level I Trauma Center in Minnesota 26 years ago and the third Level I trauma center in the country.

Today we are one of the very top trauma and emergency medicine clinical care sites and training programs in the nation for both children and adults. In addition to celebrating our new clinic building we are here to celebrate our next amazing iteration of trauma care for our citizens- a direct connection from a new state of the art helicopter EMS pad to the care patients need, the stabilization room, the ORs and the ICU's. As a pediatric and adult level one trauma center, we serve our hospital partners across the state and region each and every day, through consultation and by being here to receive patients who need additional care that only a HCMC's level one trauma center can provide.

Trauma and critical care excellence runs deep in our soul as an institution and this year we made a significant investment to improve our access and capacity to receive trauma via air ambulance service. This isn't just important to Hennepin Healthcare System or downtown Minneapolis. It's important to everybody in Minnesota - to our air ambulance partners, like LifeLinkIII, North Air Care, and Mayo and, most importantly, it is critical to our patients.

In fact, we are about to welcome some special guests for the inaugural landing, so Dr. Pryor and I are going to head across the street, while our Chief Nursing Officer Kathy Wilde tells us the story of a very special little girl, and the role that HCMC played in her life.

Kathy Wilde, RN, MA, CNEP, Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President Patient Care Services

I have the pleasure of introducing you to Reagan. Reagan is a little girl from Alexandria who – about a year and a half ago – had an accident and was taken to Douglas County Hospital. From there, she was flown to HCMC for emergency reconstructive surgery.

She was back here a couple of months ago and the Star Tribune told her story. We have a video from that visit of her mother describing what happened to Reagan and how our trauma system was here for her.

Watch video - 2 minutes

You heard Mom say that she's perfect. After a broken lower jaw, broken upper jaw, broken cheek bone, and broken eye socket –what our experienced Maxillofacial surgeon described as “terrible fractures, even for an adult.”

There are hundreds of similar stories each and every year. In trauma, there is something called a “golden hour”. It is sixty minutes that can make all the difference in the world. In addition to our new ambulatory building, today, we are celebrating the opening our new helistop, located on the top of the Red Building, above the Emergency Department, ICUS, and Operating room. This new location will make the trip from any one of our important referral partner hospitals just a little bit faster, and it adds a second helistop so that we have more capacity.

Along with Reagen and her mom Lisa and Dad Mike, we are pleased to have the leaders and the flight crew from LifeLink Ill that transported Reagen to HCMC on the day of her accident:

Pilot Dale Rahn, Flight crew members Twyla Bergenstal, Joe Neilson, and Tom Miller. We also are joined by Lifelink President and CEO Edward Eroo, COO Kolby Kolbert, and Vice President of Marketing Liz Rammer and Dr. Pryor and Dr. Heegaard.

We also welcomed friends from Douglas County Hospital in Alexandria today. Hospitals like Douglas County Hospital are such important partners who provide that initial to patients as they evaluate the injuries and make crucial decisions about the level of trauma care that will be necessary. Until now, helicopters landed on the top of the HCMC parking ramp across the street and patients were taken by ground ambulance to our emergency department. With the new location, the helicopter lands on the roof of the building where the operating rooms, ICUs, and Emergency Department are located. This new location eliminates the ground transport. The project included construction of the helistop itself and installation of an additional elevator in the building to serve the helistop. Again we recognize BWBR and Mortenson for their work on this project. The new helistop is heated to melt snow and ice making it safer for staff and patients. Currently the Facilities staff must clear snow and ice manually before the helicopter arrives. It is elevated above the buildings to give the pilots better access without having to maneuver between surrounding buildings.

If you are interested in touring the helistop, tours will be offered throughout the afternoon. Meet at this corner of the tent and we will take groups up.

Please join us for the reception and tours.