



**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA
MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024**

ABLE PARK BUILDING, 8200 ABLE STREET NE at 5:30 PM

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. DISCUSSION ITEMS**
 - A. Anoka County Housing Study Presentation (*Karen Skepper, Director of Community and Government Relations, Anoka County*)
 - B. Discussion of Allina Service Reduction at Mercy Hospital-Unity Campus
- 3. REPORT**
 - A. Administrator Report
 - B. Council Member Reports
- 4. ADJOURN**

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Memorandum

To: Mayor Nelson and Members of the City Council

From: Daniel R. Buchholtz, MMC, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer

Date: March 11, 2024

Subject: Allina Mercy Hospital - Unity Campus service changes

Councilmember Moran asked that this item be placed on the work session agenda for discussion.

Allina Health has announced service delivery changes within the Mercy Hospital campuses. The announced changes are as follows:

- All intensive care units will be located at Mercy Hospital (Coon Rapids).
- All surgeries will take place at Mercy Hospital (Coon Rapids), and the campus will increase surgical capacity.
 - The changes to surgical services will impact some ambulatory services at Mercy Hospital – Unity Campus (Fridley) which will be repositioned to other locations in the system.
- Inpatient pediatric beds will no longer be available at Mercy Hospital (Coon Rapids).
 - The low-census inpatient pediatric unit will reposition to become adult beds.
 - We will work with our provider partners in the community to ensure care pathways.

Allina will continue to focus on mental health and addiction services at the Unity Campus.

Mayor Nelson learned of this change a couple of weeks ago. He directed a letter be sent to Allina (included in the packet) expressing the City's concerns about the change. Mayor Nelson and I will be meeting with Mercy Hospital President Michael Johnston virtually on Tuesday, March 19 at 3:30pm to learn more about these changes and to express our support for maintaining Unity Campus as a community hospital for the North Metro area.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 763-784-6491.

Allina Health repositioning services between Mercy Hospital campuses

MINNEAPOLIS (Feb. 13, 2024) — Allina Health is repositioning care delivery at Mercy Hospital (Coon Rapids) and Mercy Hospital – Unity Campus (Fridley). Mercy and Unity became one hospital with two campuses in 2017. This shift is another step to ensure both campuses are best equipped to support our patients and communities with high quality care well into the future.

Mercy Hospital – Unity Campus (Fridley) will continue its focus on mental health and addiction, emergency and inpatient medical services. As the regional hub for surgical and complex care, Mercy Hospital (Coon Rapids) will expand surgical capacity. To reposition resources to deliver the highest quality care for the region, Allina Health is making the following changes:

- All intensive care units will be located at Mercy Hospital (Coon Rapids).
- All surgeries will take place at Mercy Hospital (Coon Rapids), and the campus will increase surgical capacity.
 - The changes to surgical services will impact some ambulatory services at Mercy Hospital – Unity Campus (Fridley) which will be repositioned to other locations in the system.
- Inpatient pediatric beds will no longer be available at Mercy Hospital (Coon Rapids).



- The low-census inpatient pediatric unit will reposition to become **adult beds**.
- We will work with our provider partners in the community to ensure care pathways.

Several factors are driving the repositioning of services including low ICU census at Mercy Hospital – Unity Campus, decreasing volumes for pediatric inpatient care at Mercy Hospital (Coon Rapids) and Mercy Hospital – Unity Campus operating rooms that would soon need costly renovations.

We are working with staff impacted by these changes.

About Allina Health

Allina Health (<https://www.allinahealth.org/>) is dedicated to the prevention and treatment of illness and enhancing the greater health of individuals, families and communities throughout Minnesota and western Wisconsin. A nonprofit health care system, Allina Health cares for patients from beginning to end-of-life through its **90+ clinics** (<https://account.allinahealth.org/find/locationquery?t=type<=clinic&so=true>), **12 hospital campuses** (<https://account.allinahealth.org/find/locationquery?t=type<=hospital&so=true>), **14 retail pharmacies** (<https://account.allinahealth.org/servicelines/881>), and many **specialty care centers and specialty medical services** (<https://account.allinahealth.org/find/services#find>), **home care** (<https://account.allinahealth.org/servicelines/829>), and **emergency medical transportation services** (</medical-services/emergency-medical-services>).

Learn more at [allinahealth.org](https://www.allinahealth.org/) (<https://www.allinahealth.org/>) and join us on **Facebook** (<https://www.facebook.com/Allina>), **Twitter** (<https://twitter.com/allinahealth>) and **Instagram** (<https://www.instagram.com/allinahealth>).

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How to watch the 2024 Girls State Basketball tournament



Allina Health announces changes to care access at Coon Rapids, Fridley Mercy Hospital locations

By KSTP

Updated: February 14, 2024 - 9:56 AM

Published: February 13, 2024 - 9:16 PM

Allina Health announced Tuesday it plans to adjust the services offered at its Mercy Hospital campuses in Coon Rapids and Fridley.

The two hospitals combined to become one hospital with two campuses in 2017.

The Unity Campus in Fridley will continue its focus on addiction and mental health, emergency and inpatient services, while the Coon Rapids location will expand its surgical capacity, Allina said.

To accomplish this, Allina said it is making the following changes:

ADVERTISEMENT

- All intensive care units will be at the Coon Rapids location.
- All surgeries will be at the Coon Rapids location, and some outpatient services at the Fridley location will move to other Allina locations.
- Inpatient pediatric beds at the Coon Rapids location will be converted to adult beds.

Allina cited several factors for the changes, including decreasing volumes of pediatric inpatient care at the Coon Rapids location and decreasing volumes of people being admitted to the ICU at the Fridley location. The health care system said it will connect with other children's hospitals in the metro "to ensure care pathways."

The Minnesota Nurses Association criticized Allina Health for the changes, stating that 63 full-time MNA nurses would be laid off from the Fridley location.

"These planned layoffs expose the cruel hypocrisy of hospital executives who claim that there are not enough nurses who want to work," a statement from MNA said, in part. "Nurses in these units want to work; they have worked at the bedside for years, despite decades of degrading conditions under Allina executive leadership that have put care and working conditions at the bedside in jeopardy. Hospital executives chew us up and spit us out, and then dare to wonder why so many nurses have one eye on the exit door."

When questioned about layoffs and when these changes would take place, a spokesperson from Allina Health stated, "There are nearly two thousand open positions throughout our system, and we are going to great lengths to match the majority of impacted employees with open roles throughout Allina Health. While we notified MNA as required by contract, it is our hope all nurses will accept a placement



“Ultimately, it is patients who will pay the price while Allina executives pocket their millions and pinch pennies on a corporate balance sheet,” MNA continued. “When there are fewer nurses to answer a call light, deliver medications, or help someone to the restroom, it is patients who will feel their absence. When a patient takes a sudden turn for the worse at Unity Campus and must take a \$5,000 ambulance ride to Mercy Hospital, it is that patient who will pay Allina’s bill. And when families in Coon Rapids must drive an additional 30 minutes to find their child a hospital bed, it is those families who will be left to wonder: if their child’s access to care is not the priority of Allina executives, what is?”

On Wednesday morning, a spokesperson for Allina Health disputed the ambulance cost claim made by the union, saying it was inaccurate due to Mercy Hospital and Mercy Hospital-Unity being one hospital, and patients aren’t charged when needing to go to the other campus.

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Allina executives continue corporate assault on patient care access with closures at Mercy Hospital and Unity Campus

On: February 13, 2024 / In: Allina, Corporate Healthcare, Home, Press Releases

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Latest consolidation underscores need to hold executives accountable to patient needs, not corporate greed

(St. Paul) – February 13, 2024 – Today, Allina Health executives announced their plan to close Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and surgical services at Mercy Hospital – Unity Campus in Fridley, and to close pediatric inpatient beds at Mercy Hospital in Coon Rapids. In a letter delivered to the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) today, Allina executives stated their intent to lay off 63 MNA full-time equivalent (FTE) Registered Nurse positions at Unity Campus by June of this year as a result of these closures.

The following is a statement from the Minnesota Nurses Association:

“These planned layoffs expose the cruel hypocrisy of hospital executives who claim that there are not enough nurses who want to work. Nurses in these units want to work; they have worked at the bedside for years, despite decades of degrading conditions under Allina executive leadership that have put care and working conditions at the bedside in jeopardy. Hospital executives chew us up and spit us out, and then dare to wonder why so many nurses have one eye on the exit door.

Sadly, this is only the latest in a long line of callous cuts by Allina Health under the leadership of CEO Lisa Shannon. In the last two years, Allina executives closed labor and delivery services at Regina Hospital in Hastings and consolidated it as a campus of United Hospital, more than 20 miles away in St. Paul. Allina executives shuttered adolescent mental health services at United, despite a statewide shortage of mental health beds. And Allina executives halted work at Cambridge Medical Center, putting access to care at risk in this rural community. For dropping the axe on the chopping block, Shannon took more than half a million dollars in bonus and incentive pay in 2022, as part of her total compensation of \$2.6 million.

Ultimately, it is patients who will pay the price while Allina executives pocket their millions and pinch pennies on a corporate balance sheet. When there are fewer nurses to answer a call light, deliver medications, or help someone to the restroom, it is patients who will feel their absence. When a patient takes a sudden turn for the worse at Unity Campus and must take a \$5,000 ambulance ride to Mercy Hospital, it is that patient who will pay Allina's bill. And when families in Coon Rapids must drive an additional 30 minutes to find their child a hospital bed, it is those families who will be left to wonder: if their child's access to care is not the priority of Allina executives, what is?”

This year at the state legislature, MNA nurses seek passage of the [Healing Greed Agenda](#), a legislative package to hold hospital executives accountable to patients, the public, and healthcare workers. The agenda includes a proposal, authored by Sen. Majority Leader Erin Murphy and Rep. Andy Smith, to require more prior notice when executives slate a hospital for closure or propose service reductions, unit closures, healthcare consolidations, or other related changes. The bill would require at least one public hearing to be held in the community affected by a planned closure or consolidation, as well as strict fines for hospitals that violate the law.

###

Previous Post: [Nurses at Essentia Health-Duluth Clinic 1st Street vote overwhelmingly to unionize with MNA](#)

Next Post: [Allina Health Cancer Institute nurses vote overwhelmingly for union with MNA](#)

1 COMMENT

Allina is absolutely horrible, nurses get hurt they deny access to testing to show their disability related to less staff and injuries! Treating them poorly is there

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way to get rid of long term employees! Patients suffer, nurses, doctors we are suffering while corporate staff get huge bonuses for reducing staff! Corporations should not run Hospitals! Dr's and Nurses should.

BARBARA FERGUSON | 4 WEEKS AGO | [PERMALINK](#) |

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CONTACT

Minnesota Nurses Association
345 Randolph Avenue
Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55102
651-414-2800
(Toll Free: 800-536-4662)



February 26, 2024

Michael Johnston
President
Mercy Hospital
4050 Coon Rapids Blvd.
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

I am writing on behalf of the City of Spring Lake Park to express our deep concern regarding the announced closure of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Mercy Hospital - Unity Campus in Fridley, alongside the troubling news of the moving of surgical services from Mercy Hospital - Unity Campus to Mercy Hospital in Coon Rapids. This decision, we believe, will significantly impact our community's access to critical healthcare services and is contrary to the commitments made by Allina Health when acquiring the former Unity Hospital.

We understand the complexities and challenges involved in healthcare management, especially given today's economic and medical environment. However, we must emphasize the adverse effects these changes will have on our residents' ability to access immediate and vital healthcare services. The relocation of surgical services, combined with the closure of the ICU, compromises the spirit of the commitment made by Allina Health to maintain a community hospital that serves the healthcare needs of our local population.

The decision to close the ICU at Mercy Hospital - Unity Campus and move surgical services to Coon Rapids stands in stark contrast to the anticipated needs of our expanding community. As the population in and around Spring Lake Park grows, the requirement for a comprehensive healthcare infrastructure, capable of offering critical and surgical care, becomes increasingly critical. The absence of such facilities nearby could lead to delays in receiving necessary care, negatively impacting patient outcomes during emergencies.

Population of the cities of Fridley, Blaine and Spring Lake Park is forecast to grow by nearly 20% over the next 15 years. The City of Blaine has developed a Northtown Mall redevelopment vision which could see the addition of up to 4,000 housing units. Fridley and Spring Lake Park are also seeing redevelopment interest.

Given the projected growth of Spring Lake Park and the surrounding communities, we respectfully urge Allina Health to reconsider these decisions. Maintaining the ICU and surgical services at Mercy Hospital - Unity Campus is essential not only for meeting the current healthcare needs of our residents but also for supporting the future growth and wellbeing of our broader community.

The health and safety of our community members remain our highest priority. We are optimistic that through collaborative efforts, we can ensure the continued availability of essential healthcare services for our residents now and into the future. Please feel free to contact me at 763-784-6491 or nelson@slpmn.org to discuss how we can address this issue together.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We look forward to the opportunity to work with Allina Health to uphold the health and prosperity of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert Nelson".

Robert Nelson
Mayor

cc: Spring Lake Park City Council

Daniel Buchholtz

From: Bob Nelson
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 3:29 PM
To: Daniel Buchholtz
Subject: Fwd: Unity ICU

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From: Zach Lindstrom <zach.lindstrom@moundsviewmn.org>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 3:05:01 PM
To: lisa.shannon@allina.com <lisa.shannon@allina.com>; maggie.hall@allina.com <maggie.hall@allina.com>; Michael.E.Johnston@allina.com <Michael.E.Johnston@allina.com>
Subject: Unity ICU

This message was sent from outside of the organization. Please do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

To whom this may concern:

I am writing to you to urge Alina to reconsider closing the ICU service at the Unity campus. Mounds View has a long history with this hospital dating back to Betty Wall, who helped bring the hospital to the area. We are deeply concerned about changing the critical incident services offered.

Over the last decade, there has been significant density added to the area, and that is only going to continue to happen with cities being space-taxed. The only option is to become denser and more efficient. I personally bring my children to this hospital in the event of an emergency, as do many other Mounds View residents.

I understand there are many factors I do not know or understand about the decision to change the services offered. However, I do know that minutes matter in the event of an emergency.

There have been more violent crimes in the area in recent years, and not having the ability to respond to critical incidents could cost someone their life. This is the closest hospital to several communities where they depend on you in the event of a critical emergency.

My hope is that there is a solution to keep the critical services offered to all residents in the area. If there is the opportunity to speak on the issue, I would be happy to do so. I have had several residents reach out to me on this topic.

Sincerely, Mayor Zach Lindstrom