

Shrine Hospital Chairman

By Gerald Girard, P.P.



It was announced recently that we are evaluating alternative options for overnight medical (inpatient care unit) services at Shriners Hospitals for Children-Twin Cities. This action is in concert with the national trends in healthcare toward more outpatient-oriented care while the need for overnight medical (inpatient) care declines. At present, only a small part of our service involves overnight stays. A recent news story, together with recent discussions at the winter MSA meeting, has created uncertainty, many questions and a slew of rumors, both for the nobility and for our staff. You should know that a complete plan has not been reviewed or approved by the SHC-TWI Board of Governors. We do know that our system and local staff are working to develop a plan that would create a path for the transition away from overnight stays, and at the same time, set forth a path to expand our outreach efforts in the seven-state area that our hospital supports. The SHC-TWI Board of Governors does want to make some things very clear, and end

some rumors;

We ARE NOT closing the Twin Cities Hospital! Our kids will continue to get the greatest care available to them just as they always have. The vast majority of our work is in an outpatient environment and none of that is changing. The only change is for the inpatient procedures, in which case we will shift them to other partnering facilities just as we are currently doing for some cases. And again, the plan for that change has not been fully developed or vetted. As a Board, we want you to know that we are fully engaged in this change process and are committed to giving you and your nobility valid information about any changes. We are also committed to ensuring any changes are done in a proper and well planned out format that not only creates “logical” business sense, but also remembers the human element of all involved, both our wonderful staff, our patients and their families. Last Friday at our regular meeting, the board voted unanimously to communicate our expectations to the Joint Boards to make the picture clearer for all staff members, patients and the nobility. We have communicated to our patient families the intent to move away from inpatient (overnight) services. It was