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**Regarding the decision by *OhioHealth* to close *Grady Memorial Hospital's* inpatient maternity unit:
Statement of Former Members of the Healthcare Foundation of Delaware County**

6.23.26

- I. In 2005, OhioHealth acquired Grady Memorial Hospital by reaching a definitive agreement with the Grady Memorial Hospital Board of Directors. OhioHealth was the choice of the Grady Board because of the quality medical care provided at Riverside Methodist Hospital and others, as well as its strong capital status which Grady needed to access. The agreement created the Healthcare Foundation of Delaware County as an entity representing the interests of the GMH Board to assure that OhioHealth lived up to the terms and expectations as agreed. The Ohio Attorney General approved the definitive agreement and asked each Grady Board member to certify that the acquisition was not an anti-competitive move by OhioHealth.
- II. A key term and expectation was that the core services of Grady Memorial would “at all times in the future” be supported and provided at a hospital within the city limits of Delaware. The agreement included recitals including:

“**Whereas**, Grady, HFDC, and OhioHealth share a common vision of how best to serve the healthcare needs of the residents of central Ohio and believe that a closer affiliation of Grady and OhioHealth, through OhioHealth becoming the sole member of Grady, will provide and improve high quality, appropriate-level, locally-based, primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare services to the City of Delaware and the surrounding communities; and

“**Whereas**, based upon a mutual study of demographic, economic, and medical trends, and evaluation of options to better serve their communities in light of these trends, OhioHealth, HFDC and Grady believe that the change in the structure of the relationship between Grady and OhioHealth will:

- (i) be in the best interests of the communities which they serve by improving access to and higher levels of health care services;
- (ii) enhance recruitment and development of resources for new programs;
- (iii) maintain and enhance medical services for the underserved; and
- (iv) facilitate formation of a regional healthcare system

“Section 3.2 OhioHealth Commitments

In connection with and in consideration for the consummation of the Affiliation, OhioHealth agrees that it will at all times in the future (except as specifically limited hereunder):

“3.2.2 Maintenance of Hospital Facility OhioHealth will maintain and operate, either directly or wholly-owned subsidiaries, an acute care hospital within the city limits of Delaware, Ohio. Such hospital shall maintain the complement of core hospital services that are set forth on Schedule 3.2.2 hereto (the “Core Services”). The facilities that are required to be maintained pursuant to this Subsection 3.2.2 shall be owned and operated at all times by an organization that is (i) a non-profit organization or is majority-owned or controlled by OhioHealth or an OhioHealth

wholly-owned subsidiary; and (ii) is qualified to participate in the Medicare and Ohio Medicaid programs and any successor programs.

“Section 3.2.5 Maintenance of Current Facility The current Grady Hospital located on W. Central Avenue, Delaware, Ohio, will be maintained in a market-competitive condition for the Core Services, identified on Schedule 3.2.2, until such time as a new replacement acute care hospital is built by OhioHealth as an entity described in Section 3.2.2 in the city limits of Delaware, ...”

In our opinion, the statement “Improving access” does not mean a woman from Delaware driving to Riverside in active labor; it means having those OB labor and delivery services locally.

“Schedule 3.2.2 Core Services OhioHealth will maintain an acute care inpatient and outpatient hospital in the City of Delaware with certain core services. Such core services shall be:

1. Subject to and consistent with the Quality standards maintained at all other OhioHealth Central Ohio Community hospitals.” Among those core clinical services is an obstetrics (labor and delivery,) unit. It is common parlance that a hospital obstetrics unit is an inpatient labor and delivery service. “Such core services shall be:

...

“4. Maintained in the same manner and subject to adequate demand with the same level of service as other OhioHealth Central Ohio Community hospitals. “Community hospitals” excludes Riverside Methodist Hospitals and Grant Medical Center.

“5. Maintained with the following clinical and support services, subject, in the same manner as with OhioHealth Community hospitals, to changes in technology and changes in the delivery of such services.

**“Schedule 3.2.2 to Definitive Agreement
Core Services ...**

Clinical Services

...

Obstetrics ...”

(15 services listed)

- III. For 16 years, the Healthcare Foundation of Delaware County met periodically with representatives of OhioHealth to discuss the status of and plans for the hospital. In addition, HFDC incessantly lobbied executives and OhioHealth board members for the construction of a new, replacement hospital in Delaware at a site purchased for this purpose prior to the acquisition. While not a commitment of the agreement, OhioHealth could not be convinced of this objective.

The HFDC dissolved in 2021 and distributed remaining funds to charitable organizations including OhioHealth Foundation. We believed that OhioHealth would continue to meet the obligations of the definitive agreement without our oversight, but we abandoned hopes of a timely replacement of the hospital facility with a sparkling new, state-of-the-art building.

- IV. Now we have learned that OhioHealth intends to close obstetrics services at Grady Memorial in July 2026. This would leave a county of over 200,000 people, including a city of 48,000, with no hospital-grade labor and delivery service. The professed reason is “low volume,” a small

percentage of county residents choosing Grady for delivery. *The onus is on OhioHealth to upgrade the facility and support services to make the hospital “market competitive” as promised.*

For OhioHealth to abandon obstetrics at Grady is to violate the terms of the definitive agreement which *obligates providing core services at the hospital* within the City of Delaware. Creating an OB desert is a great disservice to women of childbearing age in Delaware County. In addition to the inconvenience for families and mothers, inevitably some women in labor and their babies will have serious consequences that could have been prevented or mitigated by quality local care.

- V. Dr. Will Hammett, the President of the Grady Medical Staff and an OB physician, has for many years campaigned vigorously to maintain and improve OB services at Grady. He has resigned last week as President of the Medical Staff in frustration over this decision by OhioHealth.

Dr. Thomas Hubbell has written to Stephen Markovich, M.D. President and Chief Executive Officer of OhioHealth whom we greatly respect, to no avail. We do not know how to properly contact the OhioHealth Board Chair, Lisa Ingram.

We are not seeking to second-guess healthcare decisions, but we are seeking to ensure that the commitments made to the Delaware community are honored. We ask that the Ohio Attorney General investigate to determine whether or not those commitments are being met.

Members of the former Healthcare Foundation of Delaware County:

Thomas P. Hubbell, M.D.
Former President of the Grady Medical Staff and Grady Board member

Ralph Hodges
Former Grady Board President
Former OhioHealth Board member

Craig Wanner
Former Grady Board member