

## Health Subcommittee on Health Facilities

February 28, 2024

### Jack Sisk, President Punxsutawney Area Hospital

Good morning. My name is Jack Sisk and I currently serve as president of Punxsutawney Area Hospital and have done so for about a year and a half. I've been employed by PAH for 38 years --- over three decades as the CFO. We are part of the two-hospital system Pennsylvania Mountains Care Network along with Indiana Regional Medical Center to our south.

During the 2010's we recognized that we should not go it alone and expanded existing partnerships with Indiana Regional Medical Center that culminated in 2020 with a full asset merger. Our belief was that we should partner with another like minded hospital while our balance sheet was strong. We trusted each other and had common goals that focused on maintaining local healthcare decision making.

Unlike what is often seen in mergers where the smaller facility sees service and revenue decline as patients are redirected for services to the main facility, PAH has experienced the opposite. We have seen our net patient revenues grow from \$38,000,000 in FY 2020 to a projected \$56,000,000 in FY 2024. Our parent, PMCN has assisted us in expanding services offered in Punxsutawney and bringing new specialists to our market.

The rural hospital struggle is nothing new. Over my 38 years there is always a different challenge to overcome. Our relationship with PMHA gives us small independent facilities the leverage and scale to compete. I couldn't imagine trying to manage the revenue cycle process without Nicole Clawson and her team. PMHA provides PAH access to top-notch talent at a fraction of the price.

The Pennsylvania Rural Health Model has been a program that has significantly benefited PAH and our patients. This creative program with the cooperation of the State and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has gone a long way to support rural hospitals. The Rural Health Model needs to continue in some form to support rural access in Pennsylvania. Janice Walters and her team need your support and financial commitment. It allows us to find unique ways to transform health outcomes in our rural community without the downside of lower volume resulting in losses at the hospital. We are all incentivized to keep our communities healthier.

I appreciate the opportunity to dialog with you today and provide any insight into improving rural healthcare in Pennsylvania.