

Dr. Ralph Velazquez, Chief Medical Officer – OSF HealthCare

This isn't a new issue and resources are needed

There are numerous headlines regarding the need for these resources, this vulnerable population, having to deal with anxiety, depression, post traumatic stress disorder coming through the pandemic. There are a whole host of reasons people need care, and we don't have enough inpatient capabilities within central Illinois. So this is our opportunity to provide those resources. :25

Do you think people realize we are sending people out of the area for care because there simply aren't enough beds?

We have not increased the number of beds, and we continue to have to send people outside of the market. And US HealthVest is a company that has facilities in the Chicago area that we've already been sending people to and we found them to be a very good partner with a similar mission and commitment to the vulnerable. :23

Why US HealthVest?

US HealthVest is an innovative behavioral health system. They have proven to be very successful in numerous markets. They know the Illinois markets. They've proven that they do know how to care for this vulnerable population, as well as our providers who have had patients come back from there who have given them high grades in the way they care for patients. :24