The University of Michigan
Regents Communication
Action Request

Subject: West Michigan Oncology Joint Venture with Trinity Health-Michigan

Action Requested: Approval to Enter into a Joint Operating Agreement with Trinity Health-Michigan with respect to a Joint Venture for Oncology Services in West Michigan

Background:

The University of Michigan, through its academic medical center and clinical enterprise, Michigan Medicine and the University of Michigan Health System, respectively, serves patients from across the state through a network of relationships with health systems, hospitals, and physicians. A strategic priority in expanding this statewide network is a greater presence in communities across the state.

Michigan Medicine and Trinity Health-Michigan ("Trinity Health") have a history of developing successful collaborations dedicated to advancing the provision of high-quality, accessible, and affordable health care for the populations that they serve based, in part, on the complementary attributes and resources of Michigan Medicine as an academic health system and Trinity Health as a health care system with unique capabilities operating community hospitals. Michigan Medicine and Trinity Health entered into a Master Affiliation Agreement effective February 15, 2018 as a vehicle for the development and implementation of new collaborations throughout Michigan, including service line collaborations in west Michigan.

In 2018, Michigan Medicine and Trinity Health began discussions regarding a collaboration and exclusive partnership in the operation of an integrated and comprehensive oncology program (the "Program") delivering professional medical and hospital services in west Michigan through the systems' respective facilities, including (a) the Richard J. Lacks Cancer Center, a comprehensive cancer complex in Grand Rapids, Michigan located on the main hospital campus of Trinity Health's Mercy Health Saint Mary's hospital; (b) the Johnson Family Center for Cancer Care, a cancer complex in Muskegon, Michigan, located on the Mercy Hospital campus of Mercy Health Partners, an affiliate of Trinity Health; and (c) The Cancer Center at Metro Health Village, a cancer complex in Wyoming, Michigan, located on the main hospital campus of Michigan Medicine's Metro Health Hospital (collectively, the "Hospitals"). Since then, management of Michigan Medicine and Trinity Health have engaged in due diligence and extensive arms-length negotiations of a Joint Operating Agreement to memorialize the terms and conditions of the Program.
Under the proposed Joint Operating Agreement, the Parties will co-brand the Program consistent with the collaborative operation of the Program by the Parties and subject to applicable law. Each Party will retain ownership of its assets used in connection with the Program but such assets and operations related to the Program will be operated on a consolidated basis. Following an initial period, the Parties will share in economic risk on a 50/50 basis for the duration of the Program. Subject to certain reserved powers of Michigan Medicine and Trinity Health (e.g., approval of budgeted and unbudgeted expenditures over a certain amount, approval of material changes to the operations, services and activities included in the Program) and certain authorities retained the Hospitals pursuant to various sources of law or rules (e.g., existing governance structures, Medicare conditions of participation, Medicare provider-based status rules, state licensure requirements, accreditation requirements), the Parties will delegate governance authority over the Program’s operations to a Program Operating Committee comprised of an equal number of appointees by each of Michigan Medicine and Trinity Health and a community representative appointed by Michigan Medicine (and subject to approval by Trinity Health). The affirmative vote of a majority of the Operating Committee constitutes an action of the Operating Committee, with the approval of one Operating Committee member appointed by each of Trinity Health and Michigan Medicine for significant matters concerning the Program.

The day-to-day operations of the Program will be overseen by a physician Executive Director employed by Michigan Medicine and an Administrative Director employed by Trinity Health. The inpatient and outpatient services of the Program will be primarily carried out by the employees and contractors of the Parties who devote the majority of their time to the Program. Each Party will have the right to bill and collect payment for the services provided through the Program at its Hospitals in accordance with its internal policies and procedures. The Parties will conduct fundraising activities concerning each Party’s provision of inpatient, outpatient, and professional medical oncology services at their respective Hospitals jointly and for the support of the Program for purposes determined by the Program Operating Committee. The Parties will agree to mutual non-competition covenants customary for a joint venture of this nature.

Management of the Michigan Medicine believes the Program will strengthen Michigan Medicine’s ability to serve its local health care communities and will increase the availability and effectiveness of oncology services provided to the communities served by Michigan Medicine. Accordingly, we request that the Board of Regents approve the framework of the Joint Operating Agreement as described. We request that the Board of Regents authorize the Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs and Dean of the Medical School and the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer to negotiate any final changes to the Joint Operating Agreement; to execute and deliver, individually or jointly, any other agreements and instruments contemplated in the Joint Operating Agreement; to take any other actions necessary or desirable to consummate the transactions described in this action request and in the Joint Operating Agreement; and to obtain or make, as applicable, all governmental and third-party approvals, consents, notices and authorizations that may be necessary.
Respectfully submitted,

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and Dean of the Medical School  

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Executive Vice President  
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