

Cutback plan proposes closure of 9 area hospitals

Five area hospitals in Oakland County are targeted for bed reduction in a draft plan to reduce excess hospital capacity, the Comprehensive Health Planning Council of Southeastern Michigan announced Friday.

Nine others are targeted for total closure.

The plan was proposed by a CHPC-SEM subcommittee charged with the task.

The assignments still must be reviewed by CHPC-SEM's Plan Development and Coordination Committee. The

plan will be the subject of a public hearing tentatively set for Oct. 6. Final approval by the council's board of trustees is scheduled for Oct. 21.

Then the plan is to be submitted to the statewide Health Coordinating Council in Lansing by Oct. 30.

HERE ARE the area hospitals (with their current bed capacities in parentheses) and the proposed bed reductions:

- Botford General Farmington (300), 13
- Providence, Southfield (430), 13.

- Straith Memorial, Southfield (45), 11.
- William Beaumont, Royal Oak (890), 12.
- William Beaumont, Troy (200), 10.
- In addition, Sinai in Detroit would lose 11 of its 570-bed capacity; Martin Place, Madison Heights, would lose 29 of its 264; and Mt. Carmel, Detroit, four of its 557 beds.

PROPOSED FOR total closure are:

- Community Hospital Foundation, Almont (Macomb County), which has 48 beds.
- Dearborn Medical Center Hospital, Dearborn, 59 beds.
- Sidney A. Sumbly Memorial Hospital, River Rouge, 93 beds.
- Plymouth General Hospital, Detroit, 146 beds.

- McNamara Community Hospital, Warren, 54 beds.
 - Brent General Hospital, Detroit, 116 beds.
 - Detroit Memorial Hospital, Detroit, 235 beds.
 - Metropolitan Hospital, Detroit, 168 beds.
 - Southwest Detroit Hospital, 244 beds.
- CHPC-SEM is the federally designated health systems agency for Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne counties and the city of Detroit.

TWO OF THE nine can avoid the assignments because they have been identified as meeting special community needs.

If Sumbly and Southwest affiliate and HAP cannot reach those agreements,

In developing the assignments, CHPC-SEM volunteers concluded that there actually were 2,514 excess beds in the affected areas.

with other institutions, they will have no reduction responsibility at all.

A third, Metropolitan Hospital, because of its relationship with a Health Maintenance Organization, the Health Alliance Plan (HAP), can have its assignment reduced to partial closure if HAP is unable to work out arrangements with other hospitals for services Metropolitan provides.

If Sumbly and Southwest affiliate and HAP cannot reach those agreements,

their assignments will be redistributed to other institutions in their subareas.

In developing the assignments, CHPC-SEM volunteers concluded that there actually were 2,514 excess beds in the affected subareas.

The closure and partial closure assignments were based on the scores the hospitals achieved on a scoring system the agency volunteers charged with the task developed.

State office workers to choose new union

Ballots were sent Friday to 13,500 state clerical employees in the largest union election of state employees in Michigan history.

The clericals, who comprise the Administrative Support Unit, are voting to determine which of two competing labor organizations will become their exclusive bargaining representatives.

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), part of the AFL-CIO, is facing the Michigan State Employees Association (MSEA), in what is seen by most observers as a tight election. AFSCME scored a narrow victory over MSEA in the first round of balloting in June. Since then, the MSEA has lost elections in two other units of state employees.

THE ELECTION has been dominated by a debate over the merits of six one-day layoffs given to all state employees not represented by AFSCME or other AFL-CIO unions. The AFSCME and AFL-CIO contracts, covering about 15,000 state employees, prohibit the layoffs.

AFSCME has scored heavily by leading the opposition to the six layoffs days this fiscal year and six additional layoffs days requested for fiscal year 1982, beginning Oct. 1. This year's layoffs alone have cost state clerical employees an average \$360 pay loss, and the loss of 256 clerical positions, according to the union.

The MSEA, whose contract approved the six payless "holidays," has admitted a "serious loss of credibility" in accepting the six payless days. Recently, the MSEA shifted its position to oppose further payless days. Its campaign has included mention of a 25-cent difference in dues between AFSCME and the MSEA, painting AFSCME as an "expensive union."

Ballots sent to state clerical employees must be returned by mail to the state by Sept. 14.

On Sept. 15, the ballots will be opened and counted in Lansing. The winning union will negotiate the first contract ever for state clerical employees, the largest single unit of state employees and a unit composed of 95 percent female employees.

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