TOPIC FOR TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2019:
What are the benefits of having one inpatient campus in Downtown Utica?
How does this benefit the new MVHS Regional Medical Center and its staff?

One of the most significant – and often overlooked – benefits of the new regional medical center is having all inpatient services available in one location. That is, all emergency and acute care, specialty services and key departments such as imaging, will be available all on one campus. As MVHS exists today, there are medical services available at only one hospital campus or the other, or one campus is at high census and the other campus has excess capacity. This creates major logistical and continuity of care issues for patients and providers, is an inconvenience for patients and adds to the expense of medical care.

Right now, trauma services, robotic surgery, and invasive and surgical cardiology, are only available on the St. Elizabeth Campus, while stroke, maternity and children’s services are only available at the St. Luke’s Campus. There are additional examples of testing and procedures that are available on only one campus.

So, if you’re a patient who needs a service from each hospital, you would need to be transferred from one campus to the other. One example to illustrate this would be a pregnant patient who requires trauma services. This is definitely not ideal for patients!

Having one campus also strengthens care and services since specialty physicians would no longer have to cover two separate campuses, which is a major issue when there is only one specialist, or a limited number of specialists, in the area. Each facility today has its own “call schedule,” which doubles the amount of call required for subspecialties. This is often a concern that is raised when physicians are being recruited – one new campus will address this issue and enhance our recruitment efforts.

Building a new regional medical center in the Downtown location is a unique opportunity for our employees, medical staff and community members to design, from the inside out, a state-of-the-art facility that is more efficient. The efficiency is realized by clustering services that work together such as the Emergency Department next to Medical Imaging and all surgical-related services (e.g., interventional radiology, robotic surgical systems, and endoscopy) in the Center for Surgical Innovation. This strengthens and expands our services, bolsters patient safety, offers comfort and convenience for patients and attracts top-notch physicians from across the country. While we’ve said this many times before, this is truly an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the City of Utica and this region.