Crowd nearly overwhelmens organizers

By Maria Hernandez
Herald Democrat
BELLEVILLE — About 600 people crammed into a hearing Thursday for St. Elizabeth's Hospital's plans to relocate to O'Fallon. To see related video, go to bnd.com.

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"I want to put to rest that St. Elizabeth's is moving to a better area,"" she said. ""In fact our new facility will improve access from cities like Pattonville, O'Fallon, Keller, Washington Park and East St. Louis, where there are more people living at or below the poverty line than in Belleville."

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ELECTION 2014

Prenzler accuses challenger of 'reprehensible behavior'

Treasurer candidate Suarez denies allegation in Chemetco bankruptcy case

BY MIKE FITZGERALD
News-Democrat

Madison County Treasurer candidate Suarez denies allegation in Chemetco bankruptcy case of 'reprehensible behavior' that he is talking about a competitor.

"I want to put to rest that St. Elizabeth's is leaving "a bad area,"" she said. ""In fact our new facility will improve access from cities like Pattonville, O'Fallon, Keller, Washington Park and East St. Louis, where there are more people living at or below the poverty line than in Belleville."

Prenzler cited a complaint filed in bankruptcy court Thursday afternoon during which he accused Democratic challenger Suarez of "grasping for geographic distribution,"" a statement that Suarez categorically denied.

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There's intense competition to get into the medical marijuana business in the metro-east.

Nine applicants want to open medical marijuana cultivation centers in the metro-east region and 12 applicants want to open dispensaries, according to figures released Thursday by the state. The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation released Thursday a list of where applicants propose opening medical marijuana facilities.

The second phase will occur after the first selection of applications, state officials Thursday.

"We're really excited to see the diversity of applicants that we have a robust variety of geographic distribution," said Bob Morgan, coordinator of the state's medical cannabis program.

Patients must have a written certification from a doctor and get a background check, then pay $100 a year to apply for a medical marijuana card. Disabled people and veterans will pay $50 annually. Patients must be diagnosed with one of the diseases qualifying medical conditions, such as cancer, glaucoma, HIV or hepatitis C.

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