TLC Health to begin converting hospital to outpatient specialty site
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With federal funds in hand, a plan to open a new musculoskeletal outpatient center at TLC Health Network’s hospital in Irving is moving forward.

The health system’s Lake Shore Health Care Center filed with the state Department of Health for a $1.86 million plan to transform a vacant 6,615-square-foot space into a wellness center focused on therapy, cardiac rehab and preventive medicine.

Plans to create a musculoskeletal center were first envisioned in 2013 after the health system canceled its plans to rebuild the defunct Tri-County Memorial Hospital, which closed down after flooding in Gowanda. A federal funding award through the Federal Emergency Management Agency has since been adjusted to allow for other services within the system.

Last fall, TLC outlined four separate plans at its Lake Shore hospital site in Irving to convert the campus into a center for outpatient health as part of a larger Southern Tier healthcare transformation plan in partnership with Brooks Memorial Hospital and Kaleida Health.

Scott Butler, chief operating officer, said the project will be completely paid for by the FEMA grant, which should hasten its approval through the DOH.

“We’ve been planning it, drawing it up and now we’re actually ready to begin renovations,” he said.

The project calls for relocating physical therapy, speech therapy, cardiac rehab and support services for the orthopedic clinic to the space, while adding a wellness gym. The goal is to create a more comprehensive team approach to delivering musculoskeletal care.

Another four projects are awaiting approvals from the state, including two that are expected to be cleared by mid-April, Butler said. The hospital has been working to show the state is has the funds on hand to begin the projects, which will be reimbursed through awards from the DOH essential health care program.