

Memo

Purpose: Report of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board Public Hearing conducted at the Oak Forest City Hall Council Chambers, 15440 S. Central, Oak Forest, Illinois

From: Courtney Avery

Date: 1/25/2011

Time: 10:00 AM

Only two individuals provided written testimony. The number of individuals in attendance were:

- 40 Individuals testified in opposition to the project
- 1 Individual testified in support of the project
- 23 Individuals were in attendance but provided no testimony

Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board
PUBLIC HEARING REGISTER

Site: Oak Forest City Hall
Council Chambers

PROJECT #10-078

Date: January 19, 2011

Address: 15440 S. Central

NAME: Cook County Health
and Hospital Systems

Time: 10AM

TESTIMONY TO OPPOSE PROJECT

#	NAME (Please Print)	AGENCY, ORGANIZATION OR INSTITUTION REPRESENTED (PLEASE PRINT)	CITY (Please Print)	ORAL, WRITTEN OR BOTH (PLEASE PRINT)
✓ 1	DENNIS WITZNER	OAK FOREST CRIME PREVENTION	OAK FOREST	ORAL
✓ 2	SCOTT TREASER Ivers	A CITIZEN	OAK FOREST	ORAL
✓ 3	BETHY BOLES	SEIU LOCAL 173	OAK FOREST	ORAL
✓ 4	Gregory Lundstrom RN BSH	A CITIZEN	OAK FOREST	ORAL
✓ 5	ARROL A HAHN	A CITIZEN	OAK FOREST	ORAL
✓ 6	Shanita Gibbs	FAMILY & Friends	OAK FOREST	BOTH
NP 7	ATIMOREY LIGHTON		"	ORAL
✓ 8	Shana Clark	St. Vincent Paul Sr	Oak Forest	ORAL
✓ 9.	CHARLENE MCKEAN	O.F.H. Employee	OAK FOREST	ORAL
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of closing Hospital

#	NAME (Please Print)	AGENCY, ORGANIZATION OR INSTITUTION REPRESENTED (PLEASE PRINT)	CITY (Please Print)	ORAL, WRITTEN OR BOTH (PLEASE PRINT)
✓ 1	Yolande Adams	3511 E. 98th Self	Chicago	—
✓ 2	Debra Williams			
✓ 3	Iebra Mannus	14616 S. Kolmar Ave	Md (St. Louis)	
✓ 4	Soye Sims	17093 S. Anthony Ave	Hazel Crest Ill	oral
✓ 5	Patricia Wade	14521 S. Wayne	Dixmoor (Ilex)	oral
✓ 6	LEA TERRELL	746 Michelle Drive	Lynwood Ill	
✓ 7	PHILIP JOSEPH	8618 Wheeler Dr	Orland Park Ill	
✓ 8	Rev. SOHN KURIM	9301 TANDRACIE DR	Orland Park, Ill	oral
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#	NAME (Please Print)	AGENCY, ORGANIZATION OR INSTITUTION REPRESENTED (PLEASE PRINT)	CITY (Please Print)	ORAL, WRITTEN OR BOTH (PLEASE PRINT)	
✓ 1	Judene Hawley	Cook County Resident	Harleyville	ORAL	10:26:17
✓ 2	Joselle Ward	Cook County Health Worker	Oak Forest	ORAL	10:41:18
✓ 3	ELENAOR SUIEGOWSKI RN	Tending Park Resident	Oak Forest	ORAL	44
✓ 4	Gmilie JUNG	DOCTORS, COACHES	CHICAGO	ORAL/WRITTEN	46
✓ 5	NANCY JUSTUS SEVENS	NONE (Receive Medical care)	OAK LAWN	ORAL	51
✓ 6	TRACI KNAPP	Patient of Hospital	Oak Forest	ORAL	52
✓ 7	FAM RASMUSSEN	Outpatient	Oak Forest	ORAL	55
✓ 8	DANNEN ORLUCK	Oak Forest Patient	EVERGREEN PARK	ORAL	58
✓ 9	ROBERT HICKEY	PATIENT OF HOSPITAL	DIXMOIRE	ORAL	1:00
✓ 10	Lee Hayberry	Patient, Oak Forest	Oak Forest	ORAL	04
NP 11	Varsha Desai	Cook County Hospital Emp	Oak Forest	BOTH	
NP 12	Debra P. Tate	Employee	Oak Forest Hospital		
NP 13	Seque on Observers	Employee	Oak Forest Hospital	ORAL	
NP 14					

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✓ 1	JANE ROTH		O.P.	ORAL
✓ 2	Sandy Kelen (Kelen)	Patric	Harvey	Oral
✓ 3	Kerry Kelley	Self	Chicago Heights	Oral
-4	Shanda McSorathy	Self	Chicago	ORAL
✓ 5	Shanda McSorathy	Self	Chicago	ORAL
✓ 6	LEE MAR BERRY	SELF (signed or speak)	LANSING ILL	ORAL
✓ 7	Phyllis A. Wells	Employee	Chicago	oral
№ 8	Wesley Pickett	Ex employee	Oak Forest	
№ 9	John Kueren	Ex employee	Oak Forest	oral
№ 10	Gregory John	Employee	O.P.	written
11	Karen Salzer	Nurse	Oak Forest	written
12	Phyllis A. Wells			
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TESTIMONY TO SUPPORT PROJECT

#	NAME (Please Print)	AGENCY, ORGANIZATION OR INSTITUTION REPRESENTED (PLEASE PRINT)	CITY (Please Print)	ORAL, WRITTEN OR BOTH (PLEASE PRINT)
✓ 1	WILLIAM FORNEY	Cook County Health & Hospital System	Chicago	ORAL
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3				
4	Henry C. Brady	St. Vincent de Paul Soc	Oak Forest Hospital	WRITTEN
5		Cyrene W. W. G. G. G.		
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ATTENDANCE/NO TESTIMONY ON PROJECT

✓ #	NAME (Please Print)	AGENCY, ORGANIZATION OR INSTITUTION REPRESENTED (PLEASE PRINT)	CITY (Please Print)
1	Michelle Bussell	Tabler's Kirk Community	Champaign, IL
2	Beth Bales	SELMY Cooper 73	Dolton IL
3	Salim AlNurridin	1350 E. Sibley Blvd	Dolton IL
4	Soude Edwards	17746 KLANE AVE	Dolton IL
5	Kyle Terrell	796 Michelle Dr	Sycamore IL
6	Tamara Norman	1538 Martha Ave	Harvey, IL
7	Glenda DeAndre	3511 E 98th	Chicago So IL
8	BRAULIO DeAndra	3511 E. 98th	Chicago IL
9	Debra McManus	14616 S. Kolmar	Mundtman IL
10	Patricia White	14521 S. Hayme	Alexander
11	Joyce Sims		Clerk off
12	Fernando Silva	15055 WOODRICKS ST	Oak Forest
13	K Lloyd Bennett	4041 41st	Chicago, IL
14	Barbara Richey	17487 Parklane	O. O. Hillis 60478

MARLYN BATH

14805 Kilpatrick

Molothkin 60445

OF Volunteers

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1	RANDALL MARK	COOK COUNTY HEALTH HOSPITALS	CHRYLAWO
2	DAVE NESSAUST	CITY OF OAK FOREST	
3	KEO MASSIE	CITY OF MERRILLVILLE	MERRILLVILLE
4	SHILVERST WYLLIEN	MIRICK HILL	
5	AGNES BRIBBA	Hazel Crest	Hazel Crest
6	STEPHEN D. MORAN	MIDLAND	IL
7	KOMAND HODGSON	OAK FOREST - HODGSON	OAK FOREST, ILL.
8	JAMES BRENNER	7915 W. 164TH ST	WILEY BRICK ST
9	BURBARA BURNFIELD	13210 Quigley Road N.W. League of Women Voters	LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
10	TERONICA WOODSON	AFSANE PRES. LOOK 1178	OAK FOREST, IL
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Testimony to the Illinois Department of Public Health

Submitted on Behalf of the Service Employees International Union Local 73

January 20, 2011

Good Morning, my name is Betty Boles, I am a Vice-President of SEIU Local 73 representing Cook County health system employees. I am also a proud South Side resident and my family, friends and church members are or have been patients within the County Health & Hospital system.

Earlier this month Michael Yanul, a patient in the Acute Care department at Oak Forest Hospital, was interviewed after he was told he would need to be transferred to a nursing home because Oak Forest was going to close the Acute Care department because of service cuts.

Michael has made Oak Forest Hospital his home for nearly two decades. His muscular dystrophy has required the use of a ventilator and quality, around-the-clock healthcare. But now, Michael is being shipped out to a nursing home which will, no doubt, provide less personal care than he currently receives.

Obviously, Michael is not happy about having to transfer facilities. He and thousands of other patients and employees have become the scapegoat for decades of mismanagement and corruption that has eroded County Health services and that now threatens to close down OFH.

This action is like someone telling you that you're being evicted from your apartment, not because you didn't pay the rent, but because your landlord didn't use your rent money to pay taxes or the mortgage. We would never do that to those who are healthy, why is it OK for the county to move those in need of help?

In the column, Michael said "We're getting lost in the shuffle here. We're people. Not numbers."

He is absolutely right. When a hospital wants to shut down vital services to an entire area of the south suburbs, it's no longer about numbers. It's about people. People that need a full-service health system near their homes. Somewhere where they can walk in, regardless of their ability to pay, and know they will not have to be transferred miles away, miles away from their loved ones who may not be able to travel to see them, or miles away from the community they have called home for their entire lives.

If the county truly believes this is about numbers, then what is the number...what is the cost of the lives that could be saved with a full-service health facility in the south suburbs? The closure of Oak Forest Hospital would leave the closest county intensive care unit at Stroger Hospital more than 25 miles away.

We all know how bad Chicago traffic can be and keep in mind that most patients will have to rely on public transportation. Even in an ambulance, this could take more than 30 minutes to get from Oak Forest Hospital to the Stroger Hospital ICU. How many lives in

need of intensive care will be lost before the county realizes they are neglecting the south suburbs?

We have more than 2,000 members in the County Hospital system at Local 73. All of them are well aware of the dire economic situation this county faces and the difficult choices the county must make. They have seen their co-workers, their friends, laid off and their workload double, even triple because of the previous county cuts. Now, even doctors at Oak Forest are being laid off without any regard to patient care or workload.

I submit to you that the closing of OFH would leave a tear in the safety net that would weaken the whole rickety system of care for poor people on Chicago's far South side and the greater Southland community, endangering the viability of the remaining providers that are expected to care for OFH's patients. The County health system has been cut to the bone. We urge you to stop the bleeding and stop cutting before you break the bone and make the Cook County health system unusable.



SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION
LOCAL 73
www.seiu73.org

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Secretary-Treasurer

BETTY BOLES
Vice President

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Mike Constantino
Supervisor, Project Review Board
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street (2nd Floor)
Springfield, IL 62761

**Re: Oak Forest Hospital
Application 10-078**

Dear Mr. Constantino and Members of the Board:

The Service Employees International, Local 73 and Doctor's council (SEIU) has serious concerns about Cook County Health and Hospital System's application to discontinue Oak Forest Hospital (OFH) by June 1, 2011. Specifically, SEIU has the following concerns.

1) The OFH CON lacks widespread support from surrounding hospitals: CCHHS claims in its OFH CON that, "*(w)hile we have no specific knowledge of how the proposed project will affect other safety net services, the response to the System's Strategic Plan, from safety net providers, and others, has been substantially positive.*" (p. 294) In reality CCHHS received only 7 responses from the 36 hospitals that received impact statement letters. Of these letters:

- Only one hospital within 10 miles or 15 minutes of OFH responded positively (*please see attached map – Oak Forest Hospital, its 8 Closest Hospitals, and CON Respondents*);
- The two other affirmative responses were about 18 or 30 minutes from OFH;
- These are driving distances and times. Many OFH and other South and Far South patients have no option but to travel by public transit and face well recognized barriers to accessing public transit.
- Of the 8 hospitals nearest OFH, only 1 hospital responded in the affirmative while two responded negatively and the remaining 5 hospitals did not respond at all.

While the HFPB considers surrounding hospitals' failure to respond "*a non-rebuttable assumption that the discontinuation will not have an adverse impact for that facility,*" the extremely low level of support by Southside hospitals raises very serious concerns about the impact of OFH's closure.

2) The negative impact statement responses' raise serious concerns: Of the three negative responses, one (Palos) is very negative, while the other two (Holy Cross and Advocate Christ) point to heavy uncompensated care loads, patient capacity crunch and frequent bypass.

a) There is currently a severe patient care "capacity crunch" on Chicago's Southside: Advocate Christ's letter gives a powerful sense of the Southside's "capacity crunch":

"With regard to our ability to provide care to Oak Forest Hospital patients, Christ and Hope are severely capacity constrained and are unable to assume any of the patient load now at Oak Forest. Our ICUs are currently at 95 percent capacity, and critical patients often must board in the ED until a bed is available. This "capacity crunch" forces us to go on bypass often. We are making a concerted effort to bring our bypass hours down. An influx of patients from Oak Forest Hospital, however, would create significant access difficulties both for Oak Forest Hospital patients and for our present patient volume and demand."

This statement presents a striking contrast to CCHHS's application, which claims an average daily census at OFH of 50-60. Clearly, OFH's low census reflects the cumulative impacts of years of downsizing and mismanagement of CHHS and OFH in particular.

b) We can anticipate reductions in uncompensated care on Chicago's Southside: The significance of Holy Cross's negative response is exacerbated by the fact that this not-for-profit hospital has been acquired by for profit Vanguard. Not only will Holy Cross lose its not-for-profit status, it will become part of a debt-laden for profit owner who will likely reduce Holy Cross's uncompensated care, thus adding this load to remaining Southside providers.

c) Advocate refused to support the OFH CON: Illinois' and Cook County's largest hospital system – Advocate, which has three major facilities in close proximity to OFH - does not support CCHHS's CON. This is a striking weakness in this application.

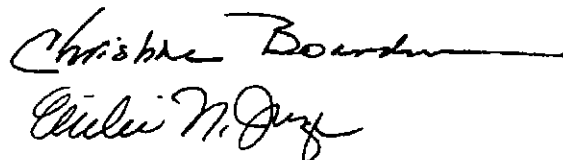
3) There are serious concerns about the nature and timing of Oak Forest's transition from hospital to Regional Outpatient Care Center: Advocate Christ's negative response raises further concerns in that it points to the challenges facing OFH's closure and its' transition to a Regional Outpatient Care Center.

Advocate Christ's letter conditionally supports the concept of such a transition if this occurs "without service disruptions" (sic) and "*provided that it proceeds as (CCHHS) described.*" The letter notes that a "*smooth transition for the Oak Forest campus is critical to maintaining timely access to emergency services in the Southland.*" Given CCHHS doctors' experience of an extremely dysfunctional transition at Provident this is an important concern. (Doctor's Council testimony from OFH and/or Provident here would be extremely useful in this regard)

These doubts surrounding OFH's transition are reinforced by the application's proposal to discontinue Oak Forest Hospital (OFH) by June 1, 2011 while promising to develop the OFH ROC "*Over a longer period.*" The potential severity of this temporal disjuncture is increased by the large Cook County budget crisis - which has already seen President Preckwinkle imposing a temporary freeze on new capital projects, including the remodeling of Fantus.

Please deny this permit.

Sincerely,



Christine Boardman, President, Service Employees International, Local 73
Emilie Junge, Regional Coordinator, Doctor's council, Service Employees International

Oak Forest Hospital, its 8 Closest Hospitals, and CON respondents

