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SEP 20 2011

HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

11-056

R. R. 1, Box 86  
Rushville, IL 62681  
September 17, 2011

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board  
525 W, Jefferson St. Second Floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

Dear Review Board,

We are writing as concerned long-time citizens and community members of Schuyler County in regards to the proposed closing of the Culbertson Long Term Care Facility. Having had our mothers, an uncle, and many older friends as patients in the facility, we feel there are a number of factors that really need to be studied before the decision for closing is finalized. We understand the grave financial situation not just in Schuyler County but throughout the whole country. We also understand that the dollar sign is the force behind most decisions being made at the present time and that the federal government is putting many restrictions on small hospitals without much thought or knowledge as to the consequences of these requirements.

Culbertson Hospital has a very unique history in our county as Dr. Culbertson and his devoted wife, Sarah, planned and built the hospital with their own funds in 1921. They cared greatly about the community and had a compassion for all people. More of this history can be read on the Culbertson Memorial Hospital's website. So many things have changed since the days of Dr. Culbertson and Sarah, but the goals of giving loving and compassionate care to all should remain the same. As Culbertson Hospital's mission statement of today still reads that it's Dr. Culbertson's basic tenet of care and compassion that is the driving force of our mission today. If this is truly the mission of the hospital then again I stress the need to look at all the factors before finalizing the closing of the long-term care facility.

We who have had family members residing at Culbertson Long Term Care know that they received excellent personal care and are treated as family. We know of the convenience of having the facility connected to the hospital where a patient can be transported for tests and other procedures in a wheelchair instead of having to have an ambulance. It's location to downtown Rushville is also a plus for family and also for the surrounding businesses as shopping can easily take place after family visits. Hardships on patients' families as well as employees' families are hard to measure, but we feel all of these will have a great impact on our community.

Even though the application reads that the reason for closing is due to insufficient volume or demand for the services. We feel that until word got out that it would soon be closing, Long Term had had a great number of patients and people in need of this type of care were always interested in coming there. Since it is a private pay facility and takes no Medicare funding, we had always felt it was a good way to use these hospital rooms and give people employment without depending on Medicare payments. Another problem

now with the application is the number of available beds in the surrounding area for patients as the Astoria Gardens that is listed in the application is now closed. Several other nursing homes or care facilities in other communities have also recently closed, so all of this becomes a concern for the current patients and their families.

We are aware that the current hospital board struggled greatly in making this decision for closure, so we know that there are many uncertainties involved with it. Having heard Senator Aaron Schrock say at a recent Town Hall Meeting in Mt. Sterling that he looked for Medicare funding to be greatly reduced in the next two years makes us all the more concerned. Since this closure is taking place in order to gain the Medicare funding that is currently being reduced due to the fact that Culbertson Hospital is a Critical Access Hospital. For some reason the government says that a Critical Access Hospital can not have a Long Term Care facility attached to it without a penalty in Medicare funding. Now with the real possibility of reduced Medicare funding as predicted by Senator Schrock, we wonder if we will not end up losing both our long-term care facility as well as the hoped for increase in Medicare funding.

Yes, we're opposed to the closing of this facility as we feel with its closure we will lose a part of what Dr. Culbertson had envisioned for his hospital and his commitment to provide the community with quality hometown health care for people of all ages.

Sincerely,

*Teresa & Stan Rebman*

Teresa & Stan Rebman



Teresa M Rebman  
RR 1 Box 86  
Rushville IL 62681-9744

September 19, 2011  
R.R. 2, Box 124A  
Rushville, IL 61681

Health Facilities  
Service Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Springfield, IL 62761

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**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Dear Review Board,

I am writing in regard to the closing of Long Term Care at Culbertson Memorial Hospital (11-056). The people of Schuyler County are not in favor of closing this facility, until it was announced it was closing, it was the 1<sup>st</sup> choice of people in the area who were in need of long term care. It had close to home convenience, patients needing tests could be taken up the hall for treatments, x-rays etc.

The facility is self pay so there is no long waiting period for the hospital to be reimbursed. It will be a real blow to the community if it is closed as several other nursing homes in the vicinity have closed recently.

Rushville is a small town struggling to survive. We are concerned the hospital will be closed next. We are some distance from any other medical facility. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Botts*

Barbara Botts



Barbara Botts  
RR 2, Box 124A  
Rushville, IL, 62681-9632

September 17, 2011

Illinois Health Facilities and Service Review Board  
525 W. Jefferson St.  
Springfield, IL  
62761

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HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Dear Members of the Review Board,

I am writing to protest the closing of the Long Term Care facility in Rushville. I believe the Hospital Board members made a mistake when they voted to close the facility. I've been told that the reason Rushville's Long Term Care Unit is closing is money. I do not know and understand the financial reasoning of accepting money from the government — and that the disbursement of those funds might change in the near future — is better than accepting private pay from the families of the residents of Long Term Care.

Moving our mother and our aunt to the long term care facility was traumatic for all involved. We had a few choices — we considered Astoria Gardens, which is now closed, and we considered Snyder's, a larger facility in Rushville. We chose the long term care facility because of its connection to the hospital, its location, and its size. The employees at long term care provide excellent and individual care. Dr. Dobner visits and checks on our mother every morning — unheard of in the world of nursing home care. Residents of Culbertson Gardens, a retirement facility also associated with the hospital, have moved to long term care when their needs and conditions

require greater care. With the closing of long term care, these residents will have to look elsewhere, and with fewer facilities available to families, that choice will be difficult.

Rushville is a close-knit and proud community, and Rushville residents and residents of neighboring communities are fortunate to have Culbertson Hospital and its long term care unit. If the long term care unit closes, the hospital might begin a slow decline and eventually close. As there is little industry in Rushville - Rushville is mainly an agricultural area - the hospital and the long term care unit are major sources of employment. Not only would nurses and aides lose their jobs, but also the people who have jobs that affect the everyday life and care of long term residents would lose their jobs. These out of work employees would presumably leave the area to seek employment.

Closing long term care, losing Rushville employees, and relocating residents to another facility at this point in their lives is wrong. The Long Term Care facility should remain open - for now and for the future.

Respectfully,  
Jane Rice

J. Rice  
143 E. Lafayette  
Rushville, IN  
62681