

17-035

Connie, I was unable to stay to the end of the hearing yesterday about an assisted living facility with dementia and Alzheimer's unit. I was asked by the governmental people to give this information to you.

1. No one from the community didn't want this facility in fact the opposite was true. Every Rochelle citizen wanted this.
2. We are the largest city in Ogle County and thus have the biggest need for this facility.
3. The empty beds in other facilities are NOT our problem. But they do not meet the needs of the individuals with dementia as they isolate the users from their friends, family, and services in their community.
4. Dementia patients need their family and friends to help maintain what is familiar and interesting to them. It is important to see faces and have conversation in addition to taking a trip to McDonald's going to a funeral, going on a walk at the park, playing cards, visiting the senior center, etc.
5. I know this from being with my mom during her journey. I was working full time at Kish, travel first to Joliet twice a week while she was home with dad and a day helper and later going twice a week to Rockford to a facility. This was so hard as I was her only visitor and working full time.
6. We deserve this facility and we NEED this facility. If it happens, I can go there when Norm can no longer take care of me instead of somewhere that I don't know.

We also need a daycare drop off for those that need it and I hope it can be part of this facility. That way Norm could drop me off so he can go to a meeting or out to lunch with family members. This is a very common part of new facilities.

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SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

I am 73, Diagnosed
with Alzheimer's 6 years
ago + will need this
facility. I want a
Alz. facility in my community
not 25 miles away.

Diane