

From: [Abby Bauer](#)
To: [DPH.HFSRB.PublicHearings](#)
Subject: [External] Mercy Closures (My family's experiences)
Date: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 7:52:57 PM

Hello

My name is Abby Bauer, I received an email that you all are looking for speakers about the closures that have occurred or will be occurring at Mercy health in the Rockford area. I am writing because I don't believe I will be able to say all that I have to in two minutes. My son who is now 7 had a near drowning incident in October of 2016. At that time Mercy only had a campus on Rockton Ave. We lived about a minute from the hospital, I was working that day, My son's father found him in the pool, realizing that we only lived about a minute from the Rockton Ave campus, he got our child out of the pool and drove him to the emergency room. When they arrived at the emergency room they immediately called the PICU and called for the Physician and a nurse to come to the ER to work on saving my son's life. My son was then hospitalized at the Rockton Ave campus in the pediatric intensive care for about 6 weeks to stabilize him. I wholeheartedly believe that if the emergency room and pediatric intensive care unit had not been available, my son would not be alive today.

Furthermore, my son has in turn had a lot of health needs since his accident as he is now completely disabled, and 100% dependent on all care needs. He has been hospitalized more times than I can count, with him ultimately needing PICU care the majority of that time. It was extremely hard to hear that we would no longer have a Pediatric unit as well as a pediatric intensive care unit to meet the needs of not only my child but the thousands of children in our area that need quick and efficient care. When one of the main reasons and ultimate goals of building a new multi million dollar hospital was to provide excellent care to women and children in our community, which now no longer exists. Now thousands of children that need inpatient care have to be shipped (literally) to Chicago or Madison, in turn they might not make the hours of drive to the next facility. This can also be devastating financially and emotionally to parents who need support from their families.

Rockford Memorial used to be the premier hospital in this area, since Mr. Bea has taken over he is slowly running it into the ground. He has the community of Rockford wondering if they will even get the good care they deserve or were initially promised they would receive. Mr. Bea has promised a lot of things whilst owning Mercy in our area, and the majority of those promises have been taken away or never fulfilled.

We as a community understand that the point of owning a business is to create revenue, however it should never be at the expense of people's health and lives who he initially promised to care for.

I feel as many feel that Mr. Bea should step away from Mercy and give it to someone who actually does care about the people of this community and their families, and not about the money.

Thank you for your time and for listening to my concerns.

sincerely Abby Bauer