

From: [Maria Barnes](#)
To: [DPH.HFSRB.PublicHearings](#)
Cc: [Simmons, April R.](#); [Constantino, Mike](#)
Subject: [External] PLEASE POSTPONE the sale of Weiss Memorial and West Suburban Hospitals to Ramco / Resilience
Date: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:08:56 AM

To the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board:

I am writing to you to share my serious apprehension about the Pipeline Health sale of Weiss Memorial and West Suburban Hospitals to Resilience Healthcare. I echo the many concerns of my neighbors and fellow community members, who have closely tracked the unfolding of the proceedings around these sales. The majority of this correspondence is a reiteration of the points of contention that have been previously presented to you by Northside Action for Justice, et al. I am sure you have read many emails to this regard. Therefore, in consideration of your time, feel free to skip to the last few paragraphs, which spell out my personal misgivings about this proposed sale.

We have reviewed all of the documents that are publicly available on the IHFSRB website about this sale and realize that a number of critical questions have yet to be answered about the sale of these two hospitals. We believe that you are in your right to demand full and relevant responses to the questions that you already posed to both the buyer and the seller. In particular, we would expect that the concerns outlined below be addressed prior to any decision on this exemption application.

- The professional and financial background of the buyers is still not clear. We insist that the buyers provide the following information, which we believe is necessary to assess if “the applicant is fit, willing, and able to provide a proper standard of health care service for the community,” accordance with the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Act:

- (1) The educational background of Manoj Prasad, specifically, educational institutions from which he received his degrees, as well as his medical / professional certification(s) and the years that those certifications were conferred:

- (1a) Subject/title of Prasad’s Ph.D. dissertation and date of completion

- (1b) Facility where/date when Prasad completed his medical residency

- (1c) Organizations where Prasad volunteered to fulfill the requirements of his FACHE certification

- (2) The professional background of Manoj Prasad:

- (2a) List of hospitals, FQHCs, LTC facilities, LTACHs, physicians’ practices, and other healthcare facilities with which Prasad has worked in the last twenty years both in the United States and abroad, the years worked at each, and his title on each of those projects

- (2b) List of Xpertease Consultants healthcare clients

- (2c) Explanation of the “Patient Delight Training Model” Prasad supposedly pioneered while in India.

- (3) Prasad’s finances

- (3a) A complete list of his assets

- (3b) A complete list of his liabilities

- (4) The professional and financial background of Rathnaker Reddy Patlola is not clear. It is not possible to determine economic feasibility, specifically whether he has the resources

necessary to purchase and operate, and sustain the operation of these facilities. Therefore, we still would like to have information on the following:

Copies of the most recent annual and quarterly consolidated financial statements for Patlola's energy industry business and any/all other businesses he currently operates.

(4a) An accounting of Patlola's personal finances including assets, liabilities and net worth (to verify he has the \$32 million necessary to finance the transaction)

(4b) A copy of Patlola's loan agreement with Provizia Capital, LTC

(4c) A list of the boards on which Patlola has served in the past fifteen years

(4d) A list of all work that he has conducted in the field of healthcare either as a professional or a volunteer during the past fifteen years

The methodology used to determine the purchase price is not clear. Information on the following would be needed:

(5) The outstanding debts for each of the hospitals

(6) The total amount for infrastructure assets of each facility

(7) The revenue and expenditures for the past two years for each of the facilities

(8) A list of all state and federal funds received by the seller during past three years

(9) Although, the buyer and seller refer to a "revenue enhancement" strategy, they did not provide information about what that would entail and how it would impact existing and future hospital operations or access to/quality of care.

The seller has yet to submit a quality improvement plan for Weiss Memorial Hospital for 2022.

(10) Some questions still remain about the \$12,000,000 that the seller originally stated would be invested in Weiss Memorial Hospital improvements.

10a) In the exemption application, the seller states that the amount would appear as a credit on the total purchase price of the two hospitals. Consequently, it is not clear where this money will come from for hospital improvements.

(10b) Although during their community outreach meetings specifically stated that the entire amount would be invested in Weiss (see Pipeline Chief Executive Officer, Irene Dumanis' July 15, 2021 public statements to this effect:

<https://youtu.be/OKIncT7eoO4?t=21093>)

in the exemption application the seller states that only \$8,000,000 would be invested in Weiss.

I personally have very grave concerns about the proposed sale. My great fear is that Mr. Prasad, Mr. Patlola, and the Resilience acquisition team are being disingenuous with their professional identities and abilities to "turn around" Weiss Memorial and West Suburban Hospitals. I am a 31-year resident of Uptown, as well as a property owner and long-time business owner in the community. I fully support the advancement of Weiss Hospital. It has provided crucial community healthcare to the Uptown neighborhood and Chicago across a diverse socio-economic range for generations. I attended a 4/7/22 meeting between Mr. Prasad, Mr. Patlol, their legal team, and a small group of Uptown community leaders. I also attended the town hall meeting at Weiss that immediately followed the small group meeting. Mr. Prasad is certainly well-spoken and charming, but his presentation left many unanswered questions about himself and his company. The owners of Resilience Healthcare have yet to present any verifiable examples of their accomplishments. Since Mr. Prasad and Mr Patlola have not offered any concrete background information about themselves or their organizations, I attempted to research them online, to no avail. I managed to find one article (dated 4/8/22 by Igor

Studenkov in the Journal of Oak Park and River Forest), which states (contrary to what Mr. Prasad has publicly presented) that Pipeline Health proposes to sell both hospitals to Ramco Healthcare Holdings (a venture capital company based in Princeton, New Jersey, and owned by Mr. Patella, who is a gas station and hotel owner), which in turn plans to LEASE both hospitals to Resilience Healthcare. THIS IS A RED FLAG. Please consider delaying the approval of the sale of Weiss Memorial Hospital and West Suburban Hospital in Oak Park to Ramco / Resilience unless and until the proposed buyers provide verifiable and satisfactory answers to ALL of the questions listed above... or denying the request for sale if those questions are not answered satisfactorily. The future of two critical community healthcare providers should not be placed in the hands of venture capitalists who have not as yet shown a proven track record in hospital management and operations. I greatly appreciate the Review Board's work on this application. My hope is that the Review Board will prioritize the healthcare needs of the community over the convenient sale of the hospitals to a company whose priority may well be to turn an eventual profit at the expense of high quality healthcare, hospital staff, and essential services. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Maria Barnes