

From: [Karole Lakota](#)
To: [Constantino, Mike](#); [Simmons, April R.](#)
Subject: [External] Public Comment for E-025-22 - West Suburban Medical Center OPCO E-025-22
Date: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:20:59 PM

Testimony for West Suburban Medical Center

I'm Dr. Karole Lakota-Treese, I am a family medicine physician and the department chairperson for Family Medicine at West Suburban Medical Center.

I've been associated with West Suburban Medical Center since I did my family medicine residency there beginning in 1998. After my three-year residency training, I did a maternal child health fellowship at West Suburban. And I delivered my 4 daughters there.

I have been employed by PCC Community Wellness Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center caring for the patients on the west side and near west suburbs of Chicago, seeing patients in the outpatient setting and following them to West Sub as needed.

At West Suburban, I am a "full-scope family medicine provider," which means I can provide care for a patient's complete life cycle. I care for newborns, pediatric patients, adolescents, adults, geriatric patients and pregnant patients— in both the outpatient and inpatient settings.

When caring for pregnant patients in the hospital, I can manage their labor and delivery, including if they need to have a cesarean section. Most hospitals do not allow family medicine physicians to be privileged in operative obstetrics. At West Suburban I can care for whole families with each family member's needs being addressed. That is good for our patients.

One of the joys of being a family medicine physician is the variety of patients and cases. Working at a Federally Qualified Health Center, such as PCC, I am able to care for patients with all kinds of backgrounds. This is a privilege that I appreciate and am grateful I can follow their care as inpatients at West Suburban Medical Center.

As we plan for a change of ownership for West Suburban Medical Center, this is not the first time I've been through this. I've seen some transitions go smoothly and benefit the hospital. For example, Pipeline Health brought in the electronic health record, which was long overdue for West Suburban.

We now have a new Buyer who has expressed interest in our hospital. I've heard he is committed to putting money into the hospital. I hope that means some improved infrastructure and further investment in the staff who care for our patients.

I'm hopeful and I am supportive of the change of ownership at this time. Thank you.

Karole

Karole A Lakota-Treese, MD
she/her/hers
Medical Director of Performance Improvement
PCC Lake Street Family Health Center
14 W Lake St
Oak Park, IL 60302
klakota@pccwellness.org
708-383-0113 x7295
708-383-9911 (fax)

Confidentiality Notice: This email message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. All personal messages express views solely of the sender, which are not attributed to PCC Community Wellness Center. Unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message.

Disclaimer:

This email message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. All personal messages express views solely of the sender, which are not attributed to PCC Community Wellness Center. Unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or distribution is prohibited.

If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message.