

Hello, my name is Sandra Summage and I worked as a Unit Secretary at St. Francis in Blue island before it was sold to CHS, an out of state owner, and became MetroSouth when it was then sold to Quorum Healthcare and subsequently closed in 2019.

We went from having a community hospital that met the needs of our community to a for profit hospital that was guided by profit margins. When Quorum was formed several years after the CHS merger they basically consolidated their bad debt and high Medicaid hospital in order to show a profit to share holders.

The end result is Quorum eventually closed the hospital and Blue Island was left without an emergency room and without a hospital.

My many years working in the healthcare industry has taught me that mergers do not improve the quality of care patients are receiving. Patients often end up paying more for services that have not been allocated the right amount of funding or staffing, which means they are spending more for poor quality care.

The closing of MetroSouth led to more disparities in access to healthcare for an already underserved community. 314 beds are no longer being used to treat the residents who are mainly minorities and low-income families. Advocate has shown a similar trend in closing essential services that community members need and if they are approved to move forward with this merger, we risk losing even more.

I am strongly opposed to the merger between Advocate Aurora Health and Atrium Health. Please support us in defending the members of this community and their access to affordable healthcare.

Sandra Summage, former Unit Secretary at MetroSouth