

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd floor
Springfield, IL 62761

July 12, 2023

To Whom it may concern,

As a previous employee of DCRNC, DeKalb County Rehab and Nursing Center, and as a friend and family member of many still residing in DeKalb County, I am writing you today with enormous concern about the proposed sale of the DCRNC to a group of private equity LLC's. I am confident that you must be aware of the slew of private equity groups taking over our healthcare system in order to extract as much profit for themselves and their shareholders as they can. 10 years ago, we were not as aware of the devastation this would bring to our already disastrous for-profit healthcare system. We now know what happens with a private equity group take-over.

According to Gretchen Morganson, a Pulitzer Prize winning financial investigative reporter for the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal, in her book, "These are the Plunderers, how Private Equity Runs and Wrecks America" she says, "The company model for these leveraged buyouts goes like this: They spy a company they want to buy, they use debt by raising money in the corporate bond market and instead of taking on debt themselves, they put the debt on the company they want to buy, and this effectively finances the acquisition. The debt is very high and it immediately hobbles the company. The men running these companies have to cut expenses by slashing the workforce and cutting corners wherever they can. They continue to level debt as they pull money out for themselves (and their shareholders) and the company becomes more and more distressed."

This model is being used currently at the DCRNC. The previous for-profit management company, (Healthcare Performance Associates) that ran the nursing home for several years, oversaw an expansion project, skimmed money from the project for themselves, neglected to properly bill private payers, improperly billed Medicare/Medicaid, neglected to pay bills, effectively straddling the DCRNC with more and more debt. They attended board meetings, mislead and lied about the finances to the members, who neglected to do proper oversight.

This management company abruptly left DCRNC in late 2021, with their salaries and profits safe, and have not yet been held to account for their actions, (and likely never will until legislatures in this country do something about it!). The DeKalb County Board of Directors then immediately disbanded the board overseeing the DCRNC and proceeded to begin the process of selling the DCRNC to private equity companies, for a third of this institution's actual value (!) - whose representatives had been attending the board meetings for some time.

We can be, at this time, quite certain as to the prognosis for DCRNC if this proposed sale goes through. These companies will cut staff, cut resources for the residents, gouge medicare/medicaid systems, gouge private payers, increase medication use, increase mortality rates, and gaslight anyone who questions anything, all to ensure profits keep coming in for themselves and their shareholders. Profit at all cost. These companies don't care about the community or the residents of DCRNC. Once they have extracted all that they can, they will abruptly close the facility and walk away with their salaries and profits safely protected. This is predatory capitalism, plain and simple, and this is what American capitalism has become.

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I hope that you believe the sale of DCRNC is not a good idea. Are there steps you can take to change the outcome of this proposed sale? Are there steps that the IL legislature can take to prevent this and future takeovers? As healthcare in this country is becoming more and more unaffordable for most Americans, private equity groups are given carte blanche to charge what they want in order to pull as much money out of our healthcare system as they can to appease their shareholders. I pray that there are steps that can be taken, and will be taken, to deny these companies a license to loot.

I sincerely appreciate your attention to this matter,
yours,
Maureen Marsden

June 30, 2023

RE: DCRNC Hearing (23-024)

Good day,

Hello. My name is Melody Benjamin, and I have a loved one at the DeKalb County Rehab & Nursing Center. I am writing this letter to you today to plead to you to not give Saba Healthcare our operating license.

Saba Healthcare has had numerous violations levied against them at the facilities they own. These violations have been investigated and documented by The State of Illinois. Many of these violations have resulted in serious tags, which resulted in hefty fines. Currently, most of all of Saba Healthcare facilities in Illinois, have a 1 star overall rating, and 1 star rating for health inspections, quality measures, and staffing (information taken from medicare.gov website). They also have a combined number of 170 citations for various unsatisfactory business operations.

The nursing home has been in business for over 160 years. It has evolved from a "poor farm" to the fine Rehab and Nursing Center that it is today. It's a shame, that due to a series of mismanagement and blunders from the County, that the nursing home is where it is today. They deserve better than to be sold to the highest bidder, with the lowest quality rated care. I have read some of the more serious violations, and frankly, it frightens me that this might happened to the residents of the nursing home.

In closing, again, please do not give Saba healthcare our license. We love the home just the way it is. I do not want the residents treated like those poor individuals at Saba's other healthcare facilities. They deserved better than the subpar care they received. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Concerned Citizen