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Date: 11/7/2025

Via Email
Michael Contantino
Project Reviewer
Illinois Health Facilities and Service Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

RE: Oak Hill Senior Living and Rehabilitation Center (Project No. 25-031)

Dear Mr. Costantino:

I am sending this email to comment on the HFSRB staff findings via report posted on website. Per Republic Times public notice posted in Sept 24th newspaper, we may comment on these finding until 9am on 11/10/2025.

Public Comment Section:

- I would like it noted per the sign in sheet for the Oct. 8th public meeting 7 of the 12 supporting the lease of Oak Hill to Accolade were Accolade leadership, attorney for the project and paid consulting interim Administrator from Will County, IL. They are not residents of Monroe County, IL. nor live close to Waterloo, IL.

Summary:

- Accolade has taken over control of Oak Hill operations in a “consulting” capacity. Per their transition care plan to IDPH they state they will continue to use the same vendors to make the transition less stressful for staff and residents. They have not even been issued the certificate of need and as of Nov. 3rd 2025 they have implemented a change with electronic health record company. They have cancelled Matrix which has been the electronic health care system since 2011 to Point Click Care.
- They have plans for using Source Tech for all dietary/food ordering needs. The Source Tech representative has meet with those in charge of dietary and commented after looking at Oak Hill’s current menu’s on how lucky and spoiled our residents have been to have so many food options, she indicated this would all change. Accolade has projected to cut the current food cost of 10 dollars a day per resident to 5 dollars. Oak Hill has worked many long years to have a facility that embraces Culture Change and to go backwards is just not acceptable and will have a negative impact on the resident’s well-being!
- Accolade has informed the staff they will have to purchase their uniforms with their logo. Many of the staff have spent a lot money to purchase holiday tops the residents enjoy seeing. Changing to standard uniforms will appear more institutionalized, that is taking a step backwards from Culture Change.

- There are many projected changes that will happen 12/1/2025 if Accolade is issued the certificate of need that will have a negative effect on the residents of Oak Hill.
- A very alert male Oak Hill resident who has written and emailed many concerns to this board has asked to meet with the current Administrator Eli Kamins on 10/16 to ask questions and ease his anxiety. The Administrator has not attempted to speak with him at this time.

General Information:

- In the application for permit, it states Igor Rebel and Yaakov Brandman each have 16% of ownership in Accolade Healthcare of Waterloo LLC. Mr. Rebel and Mr. Brandman each have ownership interest in Aria of Brookfield which is a 1 star facility in Brookfield WI. on the candidate Special Focus Facility list. In the last 3 years it has paid 625,150.00 dollars in fines and has had 3 denials of payments in 3 years per nursinghome.gov. These two gentlemen have vested interest in several facilities in IL., WI. and IA., with the majority being 1 and 2 star facilities. I know the State Board has reviewed Mr. Freedman's facilities but these gentlemen also will have a vested interest in Oak Hill which is a concern!
- Looking at Mr. Freedman's list of facilities on the State Board Report one is missing. Accolade Healthcare of Savoy, IL. is owned and operated by The Freedman's. It is currently a 1 star facility that as recent as March 2025 was on the candidate Special Focus Facility List. The Freedman's have owned this facility since 8/2023 per nursinghome.gov. The last federal fine of 37,557 dollars was 12/06/2024. In 2025 it has had 5 complaints with citations. This nursing home has also been cited for abuse and is flagged on nursing home compare. It has a type A violation as well that is not included in the list provided by attorney Anne Cooper. I am not sure why it was excluded from the list of facilities Accolade owns?

Impact Statement:

- Monroe County has not had a need to provide high acuity services; the citizens of Monroe County have been satisfied with the services Oak Hill provides as witnessed by their support on the ballot to build a new facility and tax referendum to help support the facility. Oak Hill has in collaboration with the Alzheimer's Association worked to establish a certified memory care unit to have a structured plan to provide care, treatment and services to the people living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementia. Per Anne Cooper's letter she states the enhanced reimbursement paid for those services expired in 2022 and there is no longer an incentive to continue these services. Oak Hill's concern was to provide the much-needed dementia care services to the Monroe County area and not be concerned with the incentive of enhanced reimbursement. If they decertify the unit Accolade will be allowed to admit residents to the unit without an Alzheimer's/dementia diagnosis which is currently required.

I apologize if some of this information is redundant but I can't stress enough on how much Oak Hill means to this community. There are many concerned citizens in Monroe County that want Oak Hill to remain county owned and operated. Oak Hill is the heart and heritage of Monroe County, IL.

Thank you so much for your time,

Judy Niemann