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Illinois Healthcare Facilities and Service Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street (2nd Floor)
Springfield, IL. 62761

RECEIVED

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICE REVIEW BOARD

Subject: Written Comment for Proposed Project #25-031, Oak Hill Senior Living Rehabilitation Center, 523 Hamacher Street, Waterloo, Illinois.

To Whom It May Concern,

For seventy years my family and I have lived in Monroe County. My father was born in Fults and my Mother was born in Hecker. I am very disappointed that our County Commissioners have decided to turn our county nursing home over to a for profit company. I have had many family members at the nursing home in their final years. I started working there in 1972 as a C.N.A. when I was a junior in high school. As I walked to work each afternoon I passed my Mother walking home from her shift in dietary. My sister was a C.N.A. My grandmother worked in housekeeping; my daughter was a unit assistant and worked in dietary. My sister-in-law was an R.N. I worked at the home for 29 ½ years, as a C.N.A., Activity aide, R.N. and Administrative Nurse. As Staff Development Coordinator I worked with many employees who provided loving care to our residents.

I am most concerned with (besides the fate of our employees) the quality of care for our folks. I have read many studies about when county homes become for profit homes. The commissioners have allowed Accolade Ventures LLC to begin managing Oak Hill before the lease is final and CON is approved by your board of review. Accolade met with the staff this past week and I feel my concerns have become a reality! They have told the staff they do not need the HFSRB approval and will start Oct 1 and if anyone is not on board they can leave! They explained the lease would have already been completed except for some trouble makers. Oak Hill is a 4 star facility at this time, Accolade has warned the staff they can expect IDPH will be in the building more and Oak Hill will not receive the good surveys they are used to because IDPH is not as hard on county homes as they are on private/for profit homes. Its interesting Accolade is already trying to validate providing lower quality of care for our residents. Accolade has already began to dissect the legacy of Oak Hill and Monroe County fixture for 75 years, it's sad it has come to this! They have told the staff there will no longer be a dedicated 40 bed Alzheimer's Unit which the staff took pride in providing much needed dementia care in the area. I was an Alzheimer's educator and facilitated the Alzheimer's support group in Waterloo and this is a much needed service in the area and will truly negatively impact the community. What concerns me is Accolade is just getting started, what happens when staffing is reduced, supplies are scarce and food becomes substandard?

I feel that our county board was not open and transparent about the proposed lease and potential sale. Many in the county had no idea this was even proposed much less decided without the tax payers input! At the 2 ½ hour meeting (you can imagine how many folks spoke out against at 3 minutes a piece) many county residents were disgruntled that they didn't find out until that meeting what the county commissioners were planning. After 2 ½ hours of questions and concerns voiced by staff, nursing home

residents and constituents the commissioners voted to implement their plan in front of us without any answers given. It was very disheartening! Oak Hill worked well for the county when it was making money, over the last 8 years the county has charged Oak Hill over 1,700,000.00 for overhead charges. We were told these overhead charges were for the time the commissioners spend in extra meetings for the nursing home, the state's attorney's time, the HR person's time and the treasurer's time for signing checks and working with retirement benefits? Looking at the county budget in public records for the county no other county departments are charged for these services. What exactly is Oak Hill paying for, to be sold at the first sign of difficulty that may take some effort from the commissioners to remedy? After 4 years of no oversight and diligence in hiring a competent nursing home administrator, the last (being an LPN working on her license with no experience) we have come to this.

I have found throughout my years as an employee and a family member that no one seems to care about the nursing home until they themselves, their mother, father or siblings live there. Then it becomes very important! Well I am that person who cares! I want my nursing home to remain a county home not a company!

Respectfully,

Pat Felix

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Felix". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name "Pat Felix".