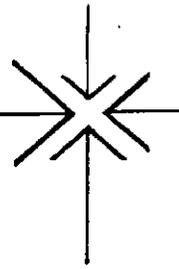


EMERGENCY CARE (FOOD, CLOTHING, SHELTER, PRESCRIPTION VOUCHERS,
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE) • COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT • REFERRALS

**RESPOND
NOW**



11-037

July 11, 2011

To: Illinois Health Review Board

Please accept this written testimony in **opposition** to the closure of services at Oak Forest Hospital. The citizens of the Far South Suburbs (Chicago Heights, Ford Heights, Sauk Village), representing the most underserved communities in the Chicagoland area, bear the brunt of poor services time and time again. These isolated communities rely on one, under staffed DHS office to process their food stamp applications (in Blue Island), live in food deserts where there are no healthy food alternatives, and rely on sporadic public transportation. The County now expects these citizens to travel all the way to Stroger Hospital for their emergency health care and long term needs. This is an unconscionable act, as no one should be forced to travel that far to receive emergency medical care, far from support and family. The County's decision is based purely on money, and is not based on the health care needs of our most vulnerable citizens. The poor, immigrants, and the unemployed deserve the same kind of health care services that anyone else should expect, including clinics, intensive care units, fully functioning emergency rooms that accept ambulances, and trauma centers. Anything less is unacceptable. It is the County's job to provide this kind of care. It is what we expect, need, and deserve.

Thank you,

Carl J Wolf
Executive Director
Respond Now

P.O. BOX 215 • CHICAGO HEIGHTS, IL • 60412
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PHONE: 708-755-4357 • FAX: 708-755-4381
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FAX MEMORANDUM

TO: Courtney Avery

ORG: Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board

FAX NO: 217-785-4111

FROM: Carl Wolf

RE: _____

DATE: July 25, 2011 TIME: 10:21

PAGES: 2 (including this cover sheet)
