

Atten: Illinois Health Review Board

RECEIVED

JUL 27 2011

July 27, 2011

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

To whom it may concern:

This letter is regarding the closing of Oak Forest Hospital. The County says they want it turned into a clinic to teach the community how to take better care of itself. Why can't we have a clinic and still keep the hospital open? They have an outpatient clinic in E building, why aren't they teaching?

The County claims the community health center across from Ingall's hospital will take people without money. I have been investigating. The charge is 30 dollars for people without insurance. The Access care charges are 20 dollars per month. It was 5 dollars in the past but over the years has gone up to 20. This community center has sent people away because they could not pay the 30 dollars.

The immediate care clinic at Oak Forest Hospital is open from 11am to 11pm and the emergency room is open 24 hours a day. When the patients come through the ER why don't they insist they go to the clinic for prescription refills? The patients have to wait for hours due to the fact there is only one doctor. They have to wait hours even in the fast track. If they had enough doctors the wait would not be so long. The people are here and need help.

With all the unused space at Oak Forest Hospital they could use it for something good. They could teach prevention of stroke, diabetes, heart issues and the list goes on.

If they are closing because of the lack of money why do they have so many supervisors and assistant to the assistant to the COO. They can use a secretary to do both jobs. The county could raise taxes one penny for five years and raise the money needed to keep Oak Forest Open.

There are nine patients here. Not because people won't come here. It is because Oak Forest is made to turn them away. The county says they want these 9 patients to leave. The last ventilator patient they made leave ended up dying because she could not handle the transfer to a nursing home and we no longer provided an ICU so she had to be transferred to Stroger. The constant transferring and long rides killed this patient.

Where are all the people with strokes and gunshot wounds going to go for rehabilitation now that the county has eliminated its rehab unit that was revenue producing? Where is the young patient who has a spinal cord injury going to go? He has been denied by any nursing home he has picked because they say he too young and has a pin sized sore. What is he supposed to do?

The county has sent so many nurses and doctors away that now they need to call people back for overtime. Does this make sense? The county scared many employees into leaving and Oak Forest Hospital got rid of employees because they were told that the state was closing us.

Please look into your heart and keep Oak Forest Hospital open despite a vote to close it. You can still override that vote and keep it open because the county didn't follow your recommendation and began tearing this place apart 5 years ago, without your permission. You never know, maybe one of your family members will need Oak Forest Hospital some day.

Thank you very much for your time,

Cynthia Phillips (patient at OFH)