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From: notification@prs01hcrmps01.ic.local
Sent: Thursday, September 06, 2018 4:04 PM
To: Ahmed, Nazneen
Subject: Forwarding Activity: 15036

Notes

Contact

Jean Hunt



Message

Topic: OTHER
Subject: HCA-Mission buy out Foundation

Attorney General Stein, I am writing on behalf of citizens of Yancey and Mitchell counties who are concerned about the coming merger of HCA with Mission Hospital systems. The Foundation touted by Mission to be set up to benefit the "community" is likely to benefit HC and Mission rather than the community at large if left to their own devices. Mission's track record with rural hospitals and HCA's track record with rural hospitals is dismal as is HCA's track record with Medicare and Medicaid fraud (as recently as 2011). This history creates serious concerns in our community. Mission's statements regarding the Foundation's role in increasing education, social services, and supporting existing NFPs is a commendable goal but the needs of the community for essential health care services that are not now being met as a result of Mission's decisions in the past cannot be allowed to continue to go unmet in future plans for health care delivery in our community. We understand that rural hospitals all over the country are at risk and challenged because of the populations they serve i.e., the poor, the uninsured, the elderly, and the chronically ill. We are unable to protect ourselves against megalithic corporations like Mission and HCA who view the world through the eyes of \$\$\$\$. Advantages to the tax base are commendable but we hope they do not have to be attained at the expense of elders, the poor, and the disadvantaged as has been the track record of both HCA and Mission to date. We understand that you have some leverage in determining the Foundation guidelines and hope you will take our needs into consideration as you review their plans and especially the documents indicating how they intend to benefit the community with Foundation funds. As our representative, we implore you to consider our needs as human beings rather than as dollar signs in the coffers of these corporations. Mission has systematically reduced services at our rural hospital over the past 5 years despite increases in the number of patients presenting for care and has essentially left us with a triage station that serves mainly to funnel patients to Mission Main in Asheville. They continue to tout awards they have received for excellence and efficiency at the same time they claim a sale to HCA will be more cost effective and "better for the community." Increasing the services available in the metropolitan Asheville and Marion area are self-serving for Mission and HCA, it does not serve the greater WNC population outside urban areas. HCA must maintain all facilities in the Mission system for 5 years following the buy-out. Beyond that, HCA does not serve or support rural hospitals in their cadre of 187 hospitals nationwide and there is no reason to believe, based on their track record that they will continue to support the hospital in Yancey County. At this point, you

are the only hope we have left that health care delivery in the form of direct, essential services will be available to our people in the future. I, on behalf of elders, children and young families in our community implore you to insist the Foundation Board have a representative from your office (at best), or State Judicial branch (as an alternative voice) with the express purpose of monitoring and assuring the community at large is served in more than a cursory fashion by the creation of a Foundation from monies accrued from the merger of HCA and Mission Health. Thank you so much for your attention to my plea. Jean W. Hunt, PhD