

January 27, 2011

Debra McManus  
14616 S Kolmar Ave  
Midlothian IL, 60445

Illinois Department of Public Health  
Re: State Agency Report Project 10-078

Dear Sirs:

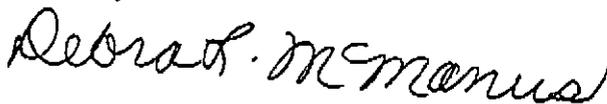
I strongly oppose any action to discontinue acute care at Oak Forest Hospital. This hospital, the southern-most county facility, is a valuable medical resource to patients on the southern fringe of Cook County. Many of the patients are indigent and have limited resources for travel to the near west-side Stroger Hospital for treatment. Likewise, family members of patients will have difficulty visiting their loved ones in such a remote site.

As you are certainly aware, healthcare is a humanitarian mission. Those of us who work each day treating patients do so with love and the utmost regard for human life. To know that suffering patients will have to struggle with arduous travel to obtain treatment at Stroger, when they could have easily been cared for in their own backyard as it were, is heartbreaking. These patients have enough hardship and may decide to forgo treatment rather than travel to where they are unfamiliar. This is medically unconscionable, dangerous, and could cost more in the long run if treatment delays increase the severity of illness.

I hope that you will take a moment to consider the human toll this decision might take. Patient lives and county employee livelihoods are on the line.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Debra McManus  
708-388-8912

**RECEIVED**

JAN 28 2011

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SERVICES REVIEW BOARD