

Dale Galassie, Chairman
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
Fax: 217-785-4111

Dear Chairman Galassie:

I am Rev. James R. Foley, Volunteer Chaplain at Oak Forest Hospital since 1997.

I am writing in opposition to the proposal (11-037) to discontinue services at Oak Forest Hospital. This is a written copy of the oral testimony I made at the Open Hearing on July 14, 2011.

I am praying for a miracle! God in His grace and wisdom has preserved the life of Oak Forest Hospital. This is a miracle considering the forces who were determined to close her. She still serves in a life-giving capacity today. Is it right now to let her die? How dare we let her die by refusing to let her live! I am praying that you will build her up again and restore her to full health as an inpatient facility.

I applaud your plan to expand and improve the outpatient regional center at Oak Forest, but we need to do more. I believe in your heart you want to do more. It is Satan who is telling you, "This is all we can do here. There is nothing else we can do." That is a lie - a lie of Satan - a lie perpetuated by our sins, mistakes, and mismanagement of the past.

Yet God's forgiveness is there. There are signs of God's anger and the consequences of suffering for our mismanagement of the past; yet, in His grace and mercy, because of His love for His people who are hurting and in need, God is giving us a new opportunity, to start over, to do it right!

This is the miracle, the miracle I am praying for!

Don't be limited in your plans and thinking. We want the same things. Let's not be opposed to each other. I know you are men and women of God and so are we. Let's not work against each other, getting caught in name calling, playing the blame game. Let's listen to each other! Let's work together. Let's finish the miracle. Don't limit God's healing place. Don't limit what God wants to do and can do for His people. Don't be deceived by Satan and his lies.

Expand the vision! We need an inpatient facility. Money can be rearranged, plans can be reworked. Expand the vision. Finish the miracle. Don't limit what God can do!

Let God work with us together to accomplish His healing will for His precious ones.

You are in my prayers. Thank you.

Rev. James R. Foley
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