

12-060

On Friday 9-7-12, I accompanied a Singer patient along with his caseworker. We had an appointment at Rosecrance –Ware in Rockford to assist in aftercare plans. We arrived at 0740 AM and there were already a number of people waiting at the door. We stood in line, with no place to sit or rest.

We were allowed in at 0800 AM, signed in and by 0820AM, people were turned away. They had their quota for the day and people were told to try back on Monday morning. An older, handicapped gentleman with a cane was told he needed to be there earlier “next time” .

This is a preview of the care that will be offered by the community agency if Singer Mental Health Center closes. TAKE A NUMBER AND WAIT IN LINE with services waning and refusal of services to most . This is reminiscent of the Great Depression when services were offered to first come, few served. If this is the picture of the future of mental health treatment with privatization, it is a sad day.

“Deinstitutionalization degrades and shortens the lives of the mentally ill. It was a well intentioned but a disastrous mistake. The mentally ill haunt libraries,lobbies and public parks. It has increased the danger of random criminal attacks and devalued the abandoned homeless individuals who are unaware of their circumstance. They were beautiful theories but have little to do with the real world.”(Clayton Cramer)” I ask that the board consider the suffering of those who will continue to require inpatient treatment, those without funds, insurance or jobs, those who have little hope and no dreams of living a normal life. For those individuals, please keep Singer open.

Mary BrickleyMHT2

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