

**Chris O'Brien**

---

**From:** Jodi Criner <jlynn74@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2020 1:20 PM  
**To:** Chris O'Brien  
**Subject:** Re: Eleanor Slater Hospital



DEPARTMENT OF



BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, AND HOSPITALS

ELEANOR SLATER HOSPITAL – FORENSIC SERVICE

---

Good Afternoon,

Monday, September 28, 2020

My name is Jodi Criner, I am nurse at Eleanor Slater Hospital and have been for over eight years working with the most vulnerable psychiatric population in the State of Rhode Island. Many are a potential danger to themselves and/or society and have been court ordered remain hospitalized.

Let me explain to you what we do for these patients. Upon admission they are usually at the lowest point in their life and have no control over themselves. They are exhibiting psychotic behaviors which include suicidal thoughts and actions, homicidal thoughts, they hear voices or see objects that are not there. They are in a state of complete panic, fear and hopelessness! This is until they enter Eleanor Slater and are treated by our clinicians, nurses and direct care staff. What we have done for these patients throughout the years is nothing short of a miracle. Thorough evaluations assessments and treatments by multiple interdisciplinary staff members of these patients has provided them with the opportunity to start them on a road to having a better quality of life with less severe symptoms.

This hospital has served this forgotten, brushed under the rug, hidden population for years. Without this hospital serving this vulnerable population they will be left to their own demise out in the community. For many of our patients, this hospital is the end of the road. They have reached their highest level of wellness but are still not safe to be in the community, group homes or nursing homes.

When you speak of Eleanor Slater in the community many say, "God Bless you for what you do". The reputation that Eleanor Slater has with our area hospitals is one of utmost respect. Many doctors and nurses within the state talk of the miracles we perform with rehabilitating our patients. I come from a family with generations of professional nursing practice including my current siblings and daughter-in-law. We all work in different fields and agree with one common denominator; the most challenging psychiatric patients are those sent to and from Eleanor Slater Hospital.

If Eleanor Slater does not exist patients that need the quality of psychiatric care that we deliver will be bottle necking our healthcare system, prison system and court system. Many of these patients are arrested and use up valuable time and resources of our police departments and court system. They will flood our emergency rooms with exacerbations of their psychiatric symptoms and will not be able to be safely discharged to outside assisted facilities. The department of corrections is presently busting at the seams with inmates that have committed crimes who need intense psychiatric care. They would not be in the ACI if they had received psychiatric care in a structured hospital like Eleanor Slater. The possible closing of this hospital would put many of our most

vulnerable at even greater risk. I ask that you please rethink the proposal to close Eleanor Slater and let's work to find a better solution.

Sincerely,

Jodi Criner BSN, RN, Nurse Coordinator- Regan 4

Eleanor Slater Hospital

Cranston, RI 02920

Office (401) 462-0679

[Jodi.Criner@bhddh.ri.gov](mailto:Jodi.Criner@bhddh.ri.gov)