

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

SENATOR

JAMES E. DOYLE II

Senior Deputy Majority Leader

8 Massasoit Avenue

Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02861

District 8



Committee on Finance

Committee on Labor

Senate Chamber

April 13, 2016

Room 122 State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903
Bus. 401-276-5594
Res. 401-729-9988

Email: sen-doyle@rilin.state.ri.us

Dr. Nicole Alexander-Scott, Director
Rhode Island Department of Health
3 Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908

Dear Director Alexander-Scott,

As members of Pawtucket's legislative delegation, we write to you in seeking your assistance in halting Care New England's misguided and morally cold elimination of crucial medical services in our communities currently serviced by Memorial Hospital. Many of our constituents have medical needs that can only be met at Memorial Hospital as they do not have the means and mobility to travel for medically necessary services out of their own neighborhoods.

We believe that there is a legitimate need in continuing to offer these services that Care New England seeks to curtail that goes beyond the fiscal numbers in their corporate ledger. Hence, that is why we are reaching out to you, by asking for your assistance, *vis-a-vis*, the reverse certificate of need process.

In that regard, we would like to meet with you post haste to explore the various paths we should pursue to ensure that Memorial Hospital is not wantonly stripped of the medically essential services that our constituents so importantly need.

Additionally, we met with the Attorney General's Chief of the Civil Division and Health Care Advocate seeking their guidance and intervention through both the Health Care Advocate and the General's overarching '*parens patriae*' role as Rhode Island's Attorney General. In our April 8th meeting, we expressed our concerns, including what appears to be circumvention of the reverse certificate of need process. Namely, that Care New England may have prematurely begun moving both cardiac staff and equipment to their Warwick facility in contravention of Section 10.0 et seq... of your department's RULES AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO HOSPITAL CONVERSIONS (R23-17.14-HCA) STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH dated September 1999.

We have reason to believe that some of the cardiac equipment that they attempted to transfer was obtained by philanthropic means and charitable trust endowments; therefore, requiring the Attorney General to investigate these potential violations. We are gravely concerned that this situation will worsen if units are closed and charitable funds are repurposed by Care New England in a manner not consistent with the donors' original stipulations, thus, violating state and federal law.

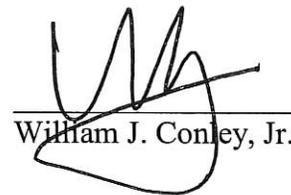
Collectively, we believe that no individual or business should be above the current law. As such, we seek your assistance and assurances that Care New England is actually complying with both the existing rules and regulations concerning the reverse certificate of need process at this time

We also have questions about the fact that it appears that Care New England's closure of the units at Memorial are being based upon profit motives at the expense of the most vulnerable of our citizens whose quality of care will virtually disappear. One set of metrics we have seen from Applied Management Services indicates that gross revenue per-patient per-day at the other two short term acute care hospitals owned by Care New England is significantly lower that it is at Memorial Hospital. Woman and Infants' is \$11,130 versus \$13,114 at Memorial, which is 15.13 % lower, and Kent's \$12,655 is 3.5% lower than Memorial's. From where we stand, we wonder if your office has begun "peeling the onion" by seeking any internal correspondence or financial modeling from Care New England that is focused upon enhancing their other facilities' financial performance at the cost of our community's quality of care and Memorial Hospital's bottom line, which would be worse off after the contemplated closures.

On behalf of the entire Pawtucket legislative delegation, Senator Doyle will be reaching out to you to set this meeting up as soon as it is possible.

Sincerely,


James E. Doyle, II


William J. Conley, Jr.


Elizabeth A. Crowley


Donna M. Nesselbush