

Lise Kennedy September 7, 2023 Public Comment at Public Safety and Law Enforcement Committee

A few weeks ago, the public commented on the last DOH Survey of the ACC, which described the unHmely death of a resident, and a legislator stated that he wanted a Special MeeHng for Infnitecare to be held accountable, and then he visited the Adult Care Center with the leader of the Minority Party. They were apparently appeased by the appearance and cleanliness at the nursing home and there was subsequently no more talk of a Special MeeHng. What they saw was the “whited sepulcher” which Jesus described, a thing which is made a7racHve on the outside, but is ro7en within. The fact is that none of you are capable of inspecHng the facility more than superficially, but there are people who are specially trained to do that, and you’ve seen their Survey results and the abysmal raHngs. SHll, Infnitecare is not being held accountable by you.

One of the ro7en things Infnitecare has done is to hire people who are inexperienced and then provide them with inadequate oversight. Infnitecare hired an Administrator who was totally inexperienced and who has never reported to this legislature, as every single Administrator before her had done. She is not accountable to you, because she is an employee of Infnitecare. She works for Infnitecare, not for the service of the county taxpayers. Her allegiance lies in perpetuaHng the whited sepulcher. This Administrator has access to a lot of data and reports which describe the roTng of the facility. For example, every bedsore is supposedly measured and reported on to both the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid and the Department of Health every week, and the DOH follows those parHcular reports closely, as bedsores are preventable and there are very clear nursing procedures for any paHent at risk. When I was a student nurse at the old Infirmary many years ago, I remember the nurse preceptor telling us that there wasn’t a single bedsore in the whole place because they rubbed down every paHent every day with baby oil. Well, now that seems very old fashioned, but sHll a remarkable achievement in a nursing home where now, we hear, residents go weeks without being bathed, never mind their skin being tended to adequately, never mind with loving care. Another very telling indicator of care is urinary tract infecHons, which, as you probably know, are usually preventable, and can result in sepsis and an early death. SHll another data set which we never hear about is the death rate. Is it higher now? What is the average life expectancy for a long term paHent aWer coming to the Adult Care Center, compared to other places or its own history? This is really important informaHon that we don’t get and you don’t ask for.

Remember, what happens at the Adult Care Center is your responsibility. Of course, you can just leave it all for the next legislature to clean up in January, but you are sHll responsible for what has happened there during your terms. I read in the Democrat that Mr. Potosek views the fines that the DOH can impose for inadequate staffing at the Adult Care Center as “a slap on the wrist.” It’s the county taxpayers and the unfortunate residents of the ACC who are geTng slapped and his childish, defiant aTtude towards his responsibiliHes is unacceptable. It would be great to have a County Manager who does the job of managing the county that he was hired to do, including managing our Adult Care Center, instead of claiming that he “just can’t do it” as he did in 2020.

Thank you.