

STAR TESS - FULL Board
3/21/24

No Certificate Of Need for Infinitecare- Public Comment 3/21/24

At the March 14th Health & Human Services Committee meeting, extensive documentation was presented showing Infinitecare's abysmal mismanagement and negligence as 'consultants' at the Liberty, NY Sunset Lake Adult Care Center. Despite this devastating indictment, Infinitecare continues to pursue a re-issuance of a Certificate Of Need from the NYS Public Health & Health Planning Commission, and dun Sullivan County Legislators to support them in this endeavor.

The massive amounts of negative documentation submitted against Infinitecare should have put an end to any consideration of either keeping them as consultants, or helping them in any way to obtain a CON for Sunset Lake ACA, or any other nursing facility for that matter. The documentation clearly shows that Infinitecare's mismanagement and perpetuation of substandard conditions have severely and negatively impacted the care and welfare of the residents there. It also accounts for the facility's precipitous drop in Medicare ratings that have plummet from the highest 5 Star rating to the lowest 1 Star level, with a cautionary "red hand" symbol, denoting reported abuse of residents at the facility.

Over the past four years, the repeated reports of neglect and mismanagement made against Infinitecare were inexplicably ignored, until the death of a resident in June of 2023 finally trigger a PHHPC investigation into this facility. You would think that this death, coupled with other numerous complaints of negligent and unsafe practices and conditions, would rule out any consideration of a CON for Infinitecare. But when the PHHPC issued its decision, they determined that a civil settlement of \$32,000 would "resolve the issue", clearing the way for Infinitecare to re-submit for another CON.

It is hard to understand how Infinitecare could be allowed to buy its way out of responsibility for a wrongful death. Surely, the determining factor here should be and is Infinitecare's failure to provide the immediate, lifesaving intervention that this emergency required.

No CON for Infinitecare

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It is inconceivable that County Legislators, who had pledged to take Sunset Lake ACC back from these predatory, for-profit operators and restore it to its former excellence, could now be considering

supporting a measure that will enable the same slipshod and dangerous management to remain in charge of the Sunset Lake

Legislators must act to disband Sunset Lake LDC, throw out Infinitecare, restore the ACC as a County owned non-profit, with an operator who will ensure this facility remains available for all who may need it now, and in future. In other words, do the right thing!

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