

Last week, the public was informed that the legislature had finally received a reconciliation in early April from Infintecare, which started their contract in October 2021 as the Management Company for the Adult Care Center, our taxpayers' county owned nursing home. Infintecare was supposed to submit these reconciliations on a quarterly basis but they didn't. The purpose of the reconciliations was to provide a public tally of the county's expenses towards the management of the nursing home, versus what profit or loss Infintecare was able to achieve, since the entire justification for a management company was that the county was supposedly unable to manage it ourselves without very substantial losses. The taxpayers have a keen interest in these figures, after so many years of our investment, and the expenditure of our funds towards the support of the facility is very much a partisan issue. The whole point of having a county nursing home is that there remains a comfortable local place for our residents to receive 24 hour nursing care if they should have the misfortune to need it, rather than any private nursing home being run for financial gain. The Chairman's explanation for why we haven't seen the reconciliation was that they are negotiating the reconciliation figures and so far are unable to agree to a final version. Why they should need to renegotiate figures, the dictates of which are spelled out in a contract, is the same sort of mystery as why anyone actually believes that the Chairman has the welfare of his constituents as his foremost priority. The point is that Infintecare has not abided by the terms of their contract. They had a poor Survey and can in no way be considered a good manager of the nursing home. They only did repairs and did none of the improvements specified in the contract. They have still not offered employees any idea of on what terms they can continue their jobs there. They didn't submit accounting and now that they have submitted it, the figures are so unpalatable that they have not been revealed publicly. This process was supposed to be transparent but as usual with this legislature, is hidden from the public.

The next step in his plan is that Lowell Feldman, as Chairman of the Sunset Lake LDC 3 member board, signs over the Adult Care Center to Infintecare in a 20 year lease. This will happen if the Department of Health approves Infintecare's Certificate of Need application. Regardless of the fact that the Sunset Lake LLC has not even followed their own bylaws, Feldman will happily sign that lease without any further need for legislative or public approval, and the clock is ticking. Mr. Feldman spent his career buying and selling nursing homes, and to rob Sullivan County taxpayers of their years of investment in this valuable health resource is just his normal.

Still, this is not a lost cause. There will be several public hearings, and if you are opposed to Infinitecare taking a lease on the Adult Care Center, you can email or mail your opinion to the New York State Department of Health. Comments the DOH will consider are those concerning the certificate of need review criteria: public need, character and competence of the operator, and financial feasibility. Anonymous comments will not be considered. I hope that everyone who works at the Adult Care Center should write to the DOH about their experiences with Infinitecare and all the promises Infinitecare management made and broke. Residents and their families and caregivers should certainly write too. Comments relative to the CON application can be submitted in writing now and be sent by email to: CONS@health.ny.gov, or by mail to:

Bureau of Project Management
NYS Department of Health
Room 1842 Corning Tower
Albany, NY 12237

Comments must include the Project Number 231044, and the Facility name: Sullivan County Adult Care Center. These comments will be posted with the meeting minutes, so you can see the address there too.