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Public Comment
Sullivan County Monthly Legislative Meeting
April 20, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.

Good morning.

I am Martha Scoppa from Liberty.
I am also a member of the Senior Legislative Action Committee.

I had intended to speak at the Health and Human Services Committee meeting last Thursday, but the meeting was not held because there was no quorum.

In regard to the Care Center at Sunset Lake, I was very disappointed by the February 16 presentation to the Executive Committee by Katie Perez, Regional Administrator of Infinite Care. Infinite Care is managing the Care Center, and many of us expected to finally receive the long-awaited and long-overdue financials called reconciliations, yet Perez was not prepared to give us that information. As far as I know, Infinite Care has never yet submitted a quarterly reconciliation, although this is required by contract. I believe they are now six quarters in arrears, maybe more.

This Legislature prides itself on fiscal responsibility, yet this situation with Infinite Care shows exactly how false that pride is. What exactly is happening here with payments and reimbursements and salaries? Where is the fiscal responsibility? I address my question directly to the Chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee, Nick Salomone. Why is there no accountability, Mr. Salomone?

More importantly, and this question is for all legislators, not just Mr. Salomone, where is the County's concern for the care of our elderly and infirmed? A very recent survey by the NYS Department of Health found many issues, big and small, that need attention and correction by Infinite Care. Of concern to me, they found inadequate staffing in 3 of the 4 units, yet the Infinite Care Administrator stated she was unaware that the level of staffing had not met requirements. There have been many Public Comments about low staffing and inadequate care at Sunset Lake. Has this Legislature taken any action?

I know you are all super busy and that you must stay abreast of many different issues, but I find it disgraceful that this Legislature has been so lax in demanding on-time financials and quality of care reports from the very company that is managing our County nursing home.

Thank you.