

Today I'm not going to talk about the resolution Mr. Doherty pulled regarding the summer camps and immunizations, but I'll get back to that. The Sullivan County Adult Care Center is now rated as a 1-star facility on the Medicare Home Health Compare website, out of 5 possible stars, with a little red hand symbol next to the star. That red hand is a consumer alert indicating quote "that the facility has been cited for potential issues related to abuse." I've actually never seen that little red hand before on the website. This rating is absolutely disgraceful and unacceptable, and by continuing to contract with Infinite Care, you are complicit in the very substandard conditions and possible abuse in that facility. The ratings are not the result of one unfortunate incident, but the culmination of poor management over time. There's not much lower that facility can go before the DOH closes it down, and I think that the only upside is that the little red hand is probably waving bye bye to Infinite Care's application for a Certificate of Need to lease the facility. When Mr. Doherty and his friends joined our legislature, the Adult Care Center was a 4-star facility, and now it's reduced to one star with that nasty warning sign next to it. Incredibly, in the two weeks since the Survey came, the patient census has climbed to around 110, as Infinite Care continues to intake residents in order to milk the facility for every penny it can get.

There is a resolution to add Elton Wood, currently employed by the Sheriff's office, to the Sunset Lake LDC. I can't imagine why he would voluntarily want to join a board that stinks so badly. His wife was a very capable nurse and administrator at Roscoe Nursing Home for many years and must understand what your attempts to privatize have done to the Adult Care Center, so it's possible that Mr. Wood would do more than nod his head on a board that so far has solely demonstrated their dedication to off load the facility. However, instead of adding yet another member to this good old boys' club, you should be dissolving the LDC and returning the nursing home to county ownership. At the very least you would then be saving the county the almost half a million we are now paying in taxes for a facility that was tax exempt before Mr. Doherty decided to screw around with it. Or you could instruct the LDC to put out a new RFP for a new management company and start the wheels turning to rid this county of Infinite Care before they totally burn the place down.

There is another new resolution to award Infinite Care yet another contract to provide Professional Medical Services, which means they will continue to import medical professionals from the metropolitan area and not employ any of the local medical staff who know the residents and could provide continuity of care. Why you would continue to award them with any contract is beyond me while that little red hand is saying that the care they have provided is so very inadequate.

