

Public Comment 4/21/22

Hi, I'm Lise Kennedy. There is a resolution on the agenda concerning a contract from the county supporting "Greater Adult Neighbors DBA Arcadia Residence's" application for licensure as an Assistive Living Program. In years past, Arcadia's Adult Home provided a notoriously low standard of care for its residents. If you look on the NYS Department of Health site, Arcadia received a total of 89 violations in 16 inspections of this facility from 2018 through 2021, many of which concerned resident services, food services, and environmental issues. In 2020, Arcadia Residence received a "Stipulation and Order" which imposed a fine as settlement due to continuing violations.

I'd like to hear some assurance that our legislature has some consideration and concern for the living conditions of their constituents in Adult Homes and Assisted Living Facilities. I'd like to hear more information and assurance that the management of Arcadia has improved before the county rubberstamps approval of their application to become an assisted living facility by blindly voting in favor of this resolution, as did the Health and Human Services Committee. Disregard for residents of our adult homes is not the way to improve our health rankings.

Again pertaining to the lack of quality services for our most vulnerable neighbors, I recently discovered that there are no active Ombudsmen in Sullivan County, so I'm adding my voice to an appeal for volunteers. The Ombudsman Program, run through The Office of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman, is an advocacy resource for older adults and persons with disabilities who live in nursing homes, assisted living and other licensed adult care homes. Ombudsmen help residents understand and exercise their rights to good care in an environment that promotes and protects their dignity and quality of life. The job involves training and 2-4 hours per week. Information is available through the RSVP office.