

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

Dear Steve, Bishop French and members of NVP and Community United:

Thank you for your continued interest in Waterbury Hospital and the Greater Waterbury Health Network.

On the two occasions we met as a group, we listened very carefully to your concerns. Bishop French, you described the Naugatuck Valley Project as a “social justice” organization concerned with issues like charity care, acceptance of Medicaid and Medicare, assumption of union contracts, funding of pensions, offers of employment to all employees, continuation of service lines, etc.

We believe we were in agreement with these goals and had already incorporated them into the Asset Purchase Agreement (“APA”). (We provided you a listing of the applicable provisions.) Indeed, in your e-mail just before this most recent one, Steve, you indicated that your proposed Community Benefit Agreement “only required (us) to do what (we) said (we) would already do and require (us) to talk with the community---“

As previously stated, our concern with signing a Community Benefit Agreement with your organization(s) and others (FYI, you are not the only social justice organization who has asked us to sign a Community Benefit Agreement) is that it is duplicative of the APA, which can be enforced by GWHN, and the Conditions of Approval, which can be enforced by the State. Furthermore, as we have discussed, we will have an Advisory Board made up of community members and local physicians who will have input on quality, capital expenditures, strategic plans and the like. What we have repeatedly said is that we don’t want to have to report to multiple bodies, each of whom could have a different interpretation of community benefit.

At the Public Hearing, we agreed to additional safeguards relative to community input, including annual Town Hall meetings and continued participation in community needs assessments with other Waterbury-based organizations, just as GWHN is currently doing. In fact, a presentation on that very topic is happening today.

We would be delighted to continue to meet with you and your organization(s) and hear your concerns and receive your input. However, we respectfully decline to sign a Community Benefits Agreement.

Sincerely,

Darlene Stromstad, President/CEO, GWHN
Thomas Reardon, President of Prospect East