

Letter sent to the Directors of the CFF Board and to the Directors of the SCLHS Board:

This is written to protest the sale of Lutheran Medical Center to the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health System of Leavenworth, Kansas.

A Denver Court has ordered Exempla Healthcare and its sponsors, the Community First Foundation (CFF) of Wheat Ridge and the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health System of Leavenworth, Kansas, into arbitration that will decide the fate of Lutheran Medical Center. This transaction breaks a fundamental promise made to my community by both SCLHS and CFF, when Exempla was formed 10 years ago, that they would preserve Lutheran as a non-sectarian, community hospital, just as they agreed to preserve the Catholic tradition of Saint Joseph Hospital. I want the outcome of the arbitration to be that Lutheran Medical Center remains our non-sectarian community hospital.

As I have talked at length with individuals and listened to group discussions within our community, it has become quite clear that the community was not fully informed of the issues at stake in the sale of Lutheran Medical Center. Indeed, a recent brochure mailed by CFF to those of us who have protested this sale to the CFF Board of Directors does not discuss any of the issues we have raised and instead obfuscates the sale as merely a “change of sponsorship.” CFF, which was started to Safeguard Lutheran, will be enriched by SCLHS money which it can use for any philanthropic purpose, and Lutheran will lose the ability to improve the health-care services of a non-sectarian hospital, the purpose for which many members of our community have contributed generously over many years. If the transaction is completed, Lutheran will no longer be able to control its own allocation of funds, and the services at Lutheran and Exempla’s physician clinics will be reduced, and in important ways, eliminated, in order to conform to Church directives.

Please listen to the voices in our community that have been raised to protest this sale as wrong for Lutheran Hospital and wrong for the community, and to protest the disinformation that has been circulated by CFF regarding the sale.

Alicita Hamilton