

August 10, 2009

An Open Letter to Exempla Healthcare, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health System and Community First Foundation:

More than two months have passed since the arbitrator's decision was announced in regard to the disputed transfer of ownership of our two non-sectarian Exempla community hospitals. We understand that you (the three involved parties) have not yet made a final decision as to the fate of these hospitals and the community members they serve and who support them—the patients, volunteers, doctors, nurses, staff and donors.

We believe it is time for all concerned parties to come together to decide where we go from here. Therefore, we respectfully request that Exempla Healthcare, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health System and Community First Foundation *invite the community* to participate in discussions about the future of our local hospitals.

Please remember that in the months leading up to the arbitration hearings, we collected nearly **10,000** signatures from community members who opposed the transfer of ownership. These signatures were submitted to the arbitration hearing.

Each of you has publicly stated that what really matters is the patients, hospitals and clinics. We will know this is true when we are invited to the table.

Now is the time to remember your vow to serve the patients in the community in the best ways possible.

Now is the time to ask us for our views and desires for the future of healthcare that impacts each of us who currently needs or will need your services.

Please remember and recognize the nearly 10,000 community citizens who oppose the transfer of sponsorship and want to keep our hospitals non-sectarian. We believe that maintaining choice is essential to achieve your goal of providing the very best in health care services for our community.

Allow us to help make our community a better, healthier place to live.

Signed,

Carl & Charlotte Worster
Co-Chairs
The Citizens to Save Lutheran Medical Center

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