



Board of Collier County Commissioners

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December 14, 2018

Mariann MacDonald, Chair, Board of Directors
NCH Healthcare System
350 7th Street North
Naples, FL34102

Dear Ms. MacDonald,

At Tuesday's County Commission meeting, Dr. Corey Howard, President of the Florida Medical Society; Dr. Cesar De Leon, President of the Collier County Medical Society; Dr. Nancy Lascheid and John Cardillo from the Neighborhood Clinic; numerous other independent physicians, patient advocates, and concerned residents spoke in steadfast opposition to the admissions policy recently proposed by NCH. In addition, all of the County Commissioner have received calls, emails, and been approached by residents that are unhappy with the new policy. All of these disparate Collier residents are united in their belief that the proposed policy would be detrimental to overall patient care.

At a different level, the County Commission is concerned with how such a policy change would affect the approximately 10,000 people covered by its healthcare insurance. Any negatively perceived change to the coverage provided by Collier County Government could make it even more difficult to attract and retain the talented and dedicated staff that makes Collier County the best place to live, work and raise a family.

Another common theme in the comments we are hearing is dismay that NCH has seemed unwilling to answer questions about the new policy. Adopting such a far-reaching change in policy with little or no communication with the public appears inconsistent with the concept of patient-centered care and contrary to the ideals of a community hospital system.

It was reassuring to hear that NCH will delay implementation of the policy in order to engage with the community and study the policy further. Thank you for this decision. On behalf of the Collier County Commission, I encourage you to engage in a thorough and independent assessment of any change to admissions policies, and to ensure that your communications with the community and independent physicians are as transparent as possible.

Thank you for your consideration of the community's concerns on this very important issue.

Respectfully,

Commissioner Andy Solis, Chair

CC: Allen S. Weiss, MD
Collier County Medical Society