

February 12, 2014

Dear Community Medical Center Board of Directors:

We want to express our gratitude to you for serving our community as board members of this prestigious resource, Community Medical Center. Your time and commitment to educate yourselves in financial as well as health care matters is truly humbling and extremely appreciated by this group. The decision in front of you is daunting.

Administrations at both Missoula hospitals have always sought our professional insight, and we urge you now to consider our input regarding an institutional affiliation that will affect us all. We have worked together concerning many issues in the past, and will continue to work together in the future. However, we are writing as independent physicians because of the importance of this issue. Your choice of a partner is an important matter that cannot be overstated and has significant consequences for all of us.

The medical landscape in Missoula is unique given the scope and talent of our clinicians in light of our population. Many of us have relocated our families and practices to enjoy Missoula's high-quality lifestyle. In addition to the physical beauty of Western Montana, we have also enjoyed being a part of a center of excellence professionally. High quality physicians attract high quality physicians. We believe that the unity of the hospitals will increase this quality and will help to improve Missoula as the center of healthcare excellence. The economic benefits for the entire community cannot be overlooked.

We believe that the division of the Missoula medical community will have an opposite and disastrous result. In environments where two hospitals are in direct competition a great deal of time, money and human resources are wasted. One institution may ultimately survive worse for wear. Alternatively, both institutions may fail. Neither scenario is best for the people we care for in Missoula or Western Montana.

Healthcare should not be about fighting for market share. It should be about fighting for lives and taking care of patients with skill and compassion. Precious and hard to come by healthcare dollars should not be spent on competing with a crosstown rival. Rather we should be working together to ensure that the Physicians in Missoula have a cost affective, state of the art medical infrastructure to allow us to make Missoula a medical center of excellence. In this way we can improve our healthcare delivery system and improve the quality of life of our patients.

Competition and duplication of services will only hinder this and ultimately fail the most important people in the health care system, the patients.

The model for communities like Missoula is to create cooperative arrangements so expensive services aren't duplicated—highly trained physicians do not compete for a limited number of patients to support specialty practices and primary care providers aren't reduced to limiting their range of services.

We have an opportunity now to make a tremendous difference in Missoula's future. Partnering and creating a regional medical hub will make Missoula a strong healthcare market. The only way we can grow and enhance Missoula is by working together now more than ever before.

Partnership makes us more attractive for recruiting and retaining specialty physicians by increasing the breadth of services and complexity of cases treated. Patients are less likely to need to seek care outside of our community in order to receive the quality healthcare they deserve. By splitting the market and the case volume, the likelihood for oversaturation of specialists increases. The volume per provider, clinic, surgery center or hospital is split and quality decreases. Practice makes perfect and duplication of services will eventually decrease the quality and competence of everyone who takes care of patients.

We should, jointly, be focused on growing volume rather than duplicating services. The same arguments Community Medical Center has been making about St. Pat's duplicating OB and NICU services can be made with many other healthcare service lines.

If Community Medical Center and Providence St. Patrick Hospital cannot establish a partnership, the attributes of both hospitals will be compromised. Our division will instead strengthen other hospital markets outside of Missoula.

The decision to affiliate is an extremely important decision with huge implications. As independent physicians practicing in Western Montana, we strongly urge you to do the right thing for this community by bringing these two institutions together to ensure high-quality cost affective and efficient healthcare.

We are all committed to Missoula, to our patients, and to making this partnership work. In this difficult economy, partnering our services is even more critical to our patients. Let's work together, make a commitment to bridge our differences, and strengthen Missoula's medical signature even more.

Best regards,

March 3, 2014

Board of Directors
Community Medical Center
2827 Fort Missoula Road
Missoula, MT 59804

Dear Chairman and Board Members;

has been a steadfast supporter of Community Medical Center and the general medical community in Missoula for many decades. Our founding partners were involved at Community Medical Center in many different ways, including participation on committees and boards at all levels. Our concern for the health of Community Medical Center and the continued health of the medical community in Missoula is deep-rooted.

It has recently come to our attention that there has been a proposal that will potentially align Community Medical Center with a larger healthcare provider, or to outright sell Community Medical Center. We appreciate the efforts you have put forth to ensure that Community Medical Center is kept viable, and to protect Community Medical Center as an important medical resource for the community of Missoula and the surrounding region.

With your efforts in mind, we have some concerns that we would like to share with the board. First and foremost is the concern of a potential sale of Community Medical Center to the Providence Healthcare System. does not support the sale of Community Medical Center to Providence Healthcare Systems. As far as physicians and the pressures on physicians to support their practices in a town the size of Missoula, it is vital that there are multiple options for physicians with which to align themselves. We have examples of one-institution towns such as Helena and Great Falls, where there has been great turmoil at the physician and healthcare provider level. This has been well-documented, and although there could be some individual cases where a single-institution system could help a physician in general, the consensus that our group has gathered from a number of providers in these two towns is that it has been detrimental to the overall health of the physician and healthcare staffing.

We believe that the competitive nature of having two healthcare systems in Missoula ensures that there is a place for all physicians and healthcare providers to safely practice. Without competition, the way in which physicians and clinicians diagnose, treat and refer patients could change significantly.

The most important concern is for patient care and how a one-institution system would impact patients. Monopolies in general are not good for consumers. A medical monopoly in many ways is the most frightening. Currently, in Missoula, there are options for patient to choose their provider and hospital based on their specific medical needs. Many of our partners have lived, worked and trained in states and/or towns separate from Montana where one-hospital systems

were a part of the healthcare system in the region. They all agree that a lack of competition negatively impacted patients, physicians and hospital employees. "No choice" could undo a hundred years of care and devotion to our community.

With these concerns in mind, we felt it important that we inform you of our very strong opinion about Providence Medical Center potentially buying Community Medical Center. We would hope that you would take these concerns seriously, as we feel it could seriously be a detriment to this town and region if Providence Healthcare Systems were to effectively turn themselves into the only option for medical care in the entire region.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

From:

Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 5:29 PM

To: Contact Us

Subject: Pending Merge Status with Providence

I was so disappointed to learn of this possible future change. The reason I choose Community is because of timely care, attention, and cleanliness. I have experienced both hospitals and was not pleased with care at Providence/St. Pat's. On my visits to Community, I was kindly and carefully attended to. If there is any other option besides Providence or St. Pat's, please consider. My nephew's friend recently made an emergency visit to Providence – it was over an hour in the ER before they saw anyone! And, her condition was a possible heart attack! How scary is this? I can realize the financial considerations in play here; however, there must be a much better choice out there. I was so concerned about this news that I felt compelled to write and express my opinion. Thank you.

From: [redacted]
At: Saturday, March 22, 2014 5:12 AM
To: Contact Us
Subject: Merger

My wife and I would support a merger between Community and Providence Health. It would make more sense rather than merging with a for profit company. There could be a great deal of cost savings having both hospitals run by the same organization.

Thank you,

From: [redacted]
From: [redacted]
To: Saturday, March 22, 2014 4:31 PM
Contact Us
Subject: Merger

I am highly in favor of CMC merging with Providence. It makes the most sense and is best for the community. Everyone wins. Then we have two excellent hospitals working together for a common goal. Please join Providence.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Contact Us](#)
Subject: Saturday, March 22, 2014 7:07 PM
To:

Dear Stephen Carlson, CMC Board and CMC Foundation,

I would like to protest the manner in which decisions are being made which could lead to Community Hospital being absorbed by Providence.

Others have already addressed the secretive manner in which these negotiations are taking place so I will leave that issue aside for now in order to point out that this merger would not add anything to our community, and in fact can only take away from the choices we now have and the healthy competition which is one of the goals of Obamacare. Once this monopoly has been established, there are likely to be legal difficulties and actions, which would take a very long time to iron out in court, if it came to that. In effect this scenario would damage Community's ability to continue, even if the law ultimately supported its right to continue as an independent hospital. The only possible benefit would be to Providence's bottom line.

As a community member, I ask that once your negotiations are finished, and before any final decision is made or action is taken, you open up the debate to include the people of Missoula so we can weigh in. It looks very suspicious that no details are coming out. Who are the non-disclosure agreements protecting, and why do they need protection?

Sincerely,

n:
it: Sunday, March 23, 2014 1:18 PM
To: Contact Us
Subject: issue of concern

Among the many issues involved in the future of CMC, I want to raise one that I haven't heard expressed. Please consider the reality that women need to have the full range of reproductive choices, including the difficult decision that rarely must be made in pregnancy termination. As much as love St. Patrick's Hospital, I am very concerned that if CMC partners with St. Pat's, that women may no longer have necessary backup access to termination in complicated cases. I urge you to address this topic in the full range of issues you are facing in making plans for CMC's future.

All the Best,

n:
t: Sunday, March 23, 2014 11:46 AM
To: Contact Us
Subject: Merger proposal idea

Dear Board: DO NOT NEED TWO ST. PAT'S!!! From the little information provided to the public and the tone of the information, it has led us to believe the merger is certainly with St. Pat's. Being a retired physician on the Community Campus it is well known that St. Pat's over the years has been hostile and uncooperative to MCMC and its ambitions. Monopolies of any sort in a small community don't provide optimum results. Complaints of inflexible and short appointments under Providence Care are rampant in the community. Is this the new "Mission" for MCMC? What about our long standing tradition of compassionate care? The thought of this merger is nauseating! Being contributors to Community Foundation we understand the need to associate with a larger organization. However, there MUST be a better option than St. Pat's.

Thank you,

From: Sunday, March 23, 2014 7:57 AM
To: Contact Us
Subject: Merger & Accountable Care

Board of Directors,

I just moved here from California, where hospital merger discussions are centered around identifying enough "identified" lives to form Accountable Care organizations. With a population of just under 100K, how can Missoula sustain two hospitals and form Accountable Care Organizations in where they will receive a fixed payment for the care they provide?

I do not know anything about the dynamics between Community Medical and Providence, but common sense tells me there's been a healthy amount of competition and probably some hard feelings on both sides.

I hope your decision is future focused and you will take a page from the playbooks of hospitals who have transitioned to managing patient care in a more global model.

Best of Luck -

m:
t: Sunday, March 23, 2014 11:16 AM
To: Contact Us
Subject: Continue to Take Care of Montanans -- Do NOT Sell to Providence

I'm writing to express my concern over the hospital being sold to Providence. I understand the situation CMC is in to sell the hospital, but it will be a huge disservice to this community if CMC sells to Providence. CMC has always been the local hospital who has taken care of western Montanans. So I hope you all can continue that tradition of putting Montanans first by not selling to Providence and giving them a monopoly over healthcare in this area. Here is a list of the things I'm most concerned about:

- **Women's Rights** - Being a catholic hospital they can choose not to perform certain procedures such as having your tubes tied. CMC has been the women's hospital taking care off all women in our community. This would be a big departure in the care women expect and deserve.
- **Wal-Marting of Healthcare** - Having Providence take over healthcare in our community will send our dollars outside of our community and outside of our state. Which means every dollar spent will not be recirculated in our own community, but will rather circulate in Seattle. Providence will hold all the cards regarding which doctors will have hospital privileges which means we could loose a lot of healthcare professionals in our town who contribute to our tax base, charitable giving and provide some of the best healthcare in the nation. I'm afraid Providence will replace physicians with PAs because they are less expensive. All of this at the expense patients healthcare.
- **Increased Medical Costs** - Let's be honest, when has a monopoly EVER decreased costs? Costs always go up and there is nothing you can do about it when there is a monopoly. Patients are held hostage.

You have the power to do what is right for this community. You all know first hand how Providence does business. Please do not sell Missoula down the river, please keep us from being a 1 hospital town. We have some of the best healthcare in the nation and I'd hate for that to change.

Please DO NOT sell to Providence.

Best,

m:
.it: Sunday, March 23, 2014 2:09 PM
To: Contact Us
Subject: Fw: We must recognize the tremendous accomplishment that was the creation of MCH
Attachments: We must recognize the tremendous accomplishment that was the creation of MCH.docx

The attached is submitted to the MCH Board of Trustees.

From:
Sent: Sunday, March 23, 2014 1:32 PM
To:
Subject: We must recognize the tremendous accomplishment that was the creation of MCH

Concerns regarding loss of local control, management & health care philosophy with sale of Missoula Community Hospital.

We must recognize the tremendous accomplishment that was the creation of MCH, with local energy and local money. It was a result of the will of the community to have an independent hospital. Really a remarkable feat.

MCH was built by the community for the community. The board is supposed to represent the community and is responsible to the community. That original surge of energy and support is still in the community but quiet now because we have two excellent hospitals. If there is a change without the community's approval there will be long and strong criticism.

There are concerns about the need for nondisclosure secrecy statements. That means that there is information being withheld from those represented. If there is not community support for whatever is done it will fail. Whose hospital is it? MCH became a reality for the benefit of.... Not the CEO and board, not the staff and doctors.... For the community, the people, the patients.

It was the will, energy & money of this community to build an independent hospital so that management and control would be local not centered in Seattle, Denver, or Minneapolis. That opinion is still in the community. The community as it exists for the hospital is citizens of Missoula, patients, foundation members, staff, & doctors.

To "partner" (read sell) MCH without having an open general meeting of the MCH Foundation is like selling a church without meeting with the congregation.

Who's hospital is it? Who owns MCH? It should not be treated as a local commercial business to be transferred in this manner.

Why is this so urgent? Where is management and control to be centered? Without local competition will patients benefit or lose?

Will patients health care costs increase or decrease?

It would seem a partner would only be interested in MCH if there was financial gain for them.

To compare satisfaction/dissatisfaction between communities with their health care controlled by a single entity or an entity outside the community and without an independent competitor one needs to talk with staff nurses and patients. The dissatisfaction without the independent competitor is significantly greater. The request is that you push the pause button, tear up those secrecy statements and begin to communicate with the community. Not just by listening but by explaining. Schedule a general open Foundation meeting with technical assistance to allow those outside of Missoula to contribute with individual notification in advance. Many of those members have sponsored or contributed greatly to MCH projects. That's the responsibility.

From:
Sent: Sunday, March 23, 2014 5:12 PM
To: Contact Us
Subject: Hospital merger

My thoughts are, competition is good. It should bring about the desire for each hospital to improve , especially in competing departments and should keep the costs in check. It is also conducive to patients to be able to have a choice. Choice is good. We've had to use the services of both hospitals and have no complaints. The two hospitals draw from a very large area which has supported both very well. When the new Community was built, we invested more than we could afford but believed fully in the facility, and still do. Count this vote as a NO to merge.

From:
Sent: Sunday, March 23, 2014 5:49 PM
To: Contact Us
Subject: Proposed merger

If you have ever been a patient or had someone close to you as a patient in community and providence, you would not even consider this from a patients viewpoint. Try it for yourself and you will realize the difference.

Sent from my iPhone

From:
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2014 8:16 AM
To: Contact Us
Subject: merger

Categories: Red Category

Please do not merge with Providence-St Patrick. This entity will then control all doctors and prices. I'm sure doctors and staff will leave or be let go and Missoula cannot afford that. I am completely unhappy with St Patrick. They do not treat their patients very well despite all their advertising about all the awards or accolades they have received. Maybe they have a good heart institute but that's all they have. Whenever I have the choice I go to Community.

From:
ent: Monday, March 24, 2014 10:13 AM
To: Contact Us
Subject: input on partnership from

I would like to just take a moment to strongly suggest that those making the decision regarding a new partnership be aware that if Community Medical chooses Providence there will not be any sort of choices for the patients. It will result in a monopoly situation in the Missoula area. Please understand that "choice" is a very important concern when faced with a medical problem.

As a woman I also am concerned that the policies of a catholic organization will affect my medical care.

Both hospitals are excellent. But both excel in different specialties.

We recently visited the new cancer center at Community and were very pleased with the care and friendly service received. As a family that has been touched by cancer we want to receive the best follow up care and we believe that Community can provide this care. We will continue to use this facility for follow up.
Thank you.

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*"Resentment is like drinking poison and then waiting for it to kill your enemies."
-Nelson Mandela-*

From: Monday, March 24, 2014 3:27 PM
Sent: Contact Us
To: Community Medical Center and Providence merger
Subject:

Stephen Carlson, CMC Board, and CMC Foundation Board,

I'm writing to urge you and the board to hold open forums for discussion and input from the physicians and community members before any decision is made by the board regarding the proposal to sell to Providence. This is a matter that concerns the Missoula community as well as medical professionals who have supported the CMC over the period of its operation. Soliciting input from all concerned individuals and groups should be a first priority before any decision is made.

I feel that the presence of two hospitals in Missoula, for-profit and non-profit, is essentially good for Missoula and that the important work to be done is for each to work closely with the other to avoid duplication of services where appropriate and to collaborate closely on providing the best medical care possible for our community while still maintaining separate identities. A monopoly that controls both/all institutions destroys the healthy effects of choice for medical professionals and patients.

I would welcome any open debate and seriously considered input from all concerned.

Thank you,

From:
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2014 5:21 PM
To: Contact Us
Subject: Merger

Dear CMC Board of Directors:

In response to your televised request for comments about the seemingly inevitable merger of CMC with another facility:

Missoulians have always taken care of each other in community, as well as at Community. We have been fiercely proud and enormously grateful for the quality of our medical care and the accessibility of our physicians and hospital administrators. Many of our families were involved in founding Community Hospital. In a place like Missoula, the people who treat us, care about us, send us bills and discuss our needs and concerns are also our friends and neighbors.

We have been fortunate here to have choices about where to go for physician care and hospitalization, and to compare the respective expertise and costs.

One of the hospitals has already moved a layer away from that feeling of local involvement.

Many people are concerned about the changing nature of 21st century medicine -- including and especially the consequences of the Affordable Care Act, many of which are still to be determined.

One of their fears is that another layer ~ impersonal and inaccessible ~ will be added at the top of the administrative chain when Community becomes part of another organization.

I urge you to address these concerns and to be responsive to public input with honesty and transparency.

Sincerely,

From:
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2014 5:38 PM
To: Contact Us
Subject: Merger

Board of directors; I'm very concerned with the possibility of a merger/aquisition of Community Hospital. A city the size of Missoula deserves more than one choice when it comes to health care. If Providence is your choice, you leave the public no choice. Competition is a good thing. So are second opinions. I worry about reproductive services, as well as end of life decisions. I also am concerned about staff losing jobs, uprooting families, and stress on your staff. You serve not only Missoula, but the Bitterroot and Mission Valleys. I hope the extra time it takes the Bitterrooters to get to St Pats wont cost lives. I live in the Mission Valley. Ive NEVER used Kalispell Regional Hospital, but if you choose a monopoly in Missoula,I will. Please address this and other's concerns publicly. Thank you,

Sent from my Verizon Wireless Device

From:
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2014 9:42 PM
To: Contact Us
Subject: Possible Merger

To Whom I May concern:

I am currently a cancer patient at CMC. I was originally diagnosed and treated at St. Patrick's Hospital. However, SPH stopped accepting my insurance carrier and they more than tripled the cost of my treatment ! It is the difference between life and a slow agonizing death for me. I was so thrilled that there was the choice to go to CMC!! They accepted my insurance and the cost of my treatment was the usual amount. My insurance company even called me to thank me for switching hospitals to keep their costs down. I also am very impressed and pleased with my excellent care and the wonderful staff at CMC. I am literally scared to death that if you merge with SPH you will do the same thing they did to me. Without a choice we are all hostages to the greediest person in charge. Having competition is what keeps businesses or hospitals accountable because they all want our business and will work hard to get it. Please, please, please don't merge with SPH! They are only concerned with filling their own pockets with money and not concerned with what is best for their patients. I am hoping you will do what is right and continue to offer reasonable, high quality healthcare.

Thank you,

From:
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2014 10:00 PM
To: Contact Us
Subject: Hospital changes

To the committee considering the future of Community Medical Center:

I am a retired _____, wife of a retired CMC R.N., and on several occasions during the last 40+ years a patient at CMC. I would like to share a few thoughts and concerns about proposed changes to CMC.

1. As a patient, I have been consistently satisfied with the treatment I received at your facility. On one occasion, I was also a patient at St. Patrick. That was not a positive experience. Community not only offered attentive, professional nursing care, but the staff was knowledgeable, and I saw the same nurses repeatedly. At St. Pat's, nurses were slow in answering call bells and each day seemed to bring different people who were often pulled in from other floors/departments that had fewer patients. These people had good intentions, but I felt there was little continuity in care. In addition, cleanliness at CMC was far superior, as was the quality of the food.

2. I am a believer in competition as well as cooperation and specialization. Having two major medical facilities in Missoula that are mostly independent of each other seems to promote healthy competition that will not only give patients choices but keep both hospitals striving for excellence. I have no problem with having expensive specialities in one hospital or the other; we cannot afford two heart surgery centers or two OB/infant care facilities. Convenience and patient/doctor preferences are better served by having two independent hospitals.

3. Patients must continue to have access to safe reproductive procedures. Joining the Providence group would limit options that especially affect women's choices.

4. My understanding is that CMC already has a connection with the Billings Clinic that is working well. I have attended the Voices of Hope programs over several years and have been very impressed with the specialists from Billings who have presented at these events. Continuing and strengthening this partnership seems to offer benefits to both facilities and especially to the patients.

In conclusion, I truly hope those who will make the final decisions about the future of CMC will carefully consider my concerns as well as those of the doctors, nurses, and other employees and especially all the patients of western Montana and northern Idaho who have come to rely on Community "From day one." Thank you for allowing me to add my input.

From:
ent: Monday, March 24, 2014 11:49 PM
ro: Contact Us
Subject: Possible changes it status of CMC

To the committee considering the future of Community Medical Center

First of all let me say that I am a Retired Surgical RN at CMC and I graduated from ST. Patrick's School of Nursing in and was hired right away to work in the ER as a Graduate Nurse in ER/ICU and after one year was moved to the surgery department where I remained until retirement. In the past seven years I have had several very major surgeries done at CMC and a couple of minor ones done at St. Pat's, and without a doubt I received superlative care at CMC over St.Pat's. These are my concerns:

1. I truly believe consolidation will mean a very serious blow to the care received by the patients using these facilities and an economical loss to the city of Missoula. I believe that layoffs will abound and the highly skilled personnel losing some of these jobs will go to greener pastures. The competition between these two facilities especially in the areas where there are parallel services is absolutely essential to keep the very fine cutting edge each hospital has in these areas.
2. I believe that services such as Cardiac Surgery, and the OB and neonatal services should remain where they are, and others refined to keep the patient care safe and and available.
3. Patient choice will be compromised as well as doctors' and surgical specialists'. They should be allowed to make the decision as to where they are most comfortable and perceive that the care given and received by these respective individuals is more to their liking. After all, the mental and psychological aspects of healing must be considered.
4. I am sure that both hospitals have affiliations with outside clinics and hospitals and they are engaged in alternate treatments medical interventions thus keeping the ideas fresh, new and innovative.
5. Finally I would like to tell you that I am vehemently opposed to a merger with St. Pat's and hope you will consider this note while making your decision. Thank you.

Missoula, MT 59801

3-24-54

To Community Hospital Board of Directors,

I am a long time concerned citizen with concerns about the decisions and actions that you will be taking.

My main concern relates to choices, the people who have used Community instead of Providence die so for reasons, I am among them. I made my choices and was pleased with my care. I am in my 80's and therefore not personally affected by some of the changes that may occur.

The philosophies and attitudes concerning in-trouble births, mother's lives vs babies lives, and other pregnancy related issues, vasectomies, tubal ligation, and end of life decisions will no longer be choices between patient and Doctor.

My fears also include Perception. The Missoula community will determine what that perception will be.

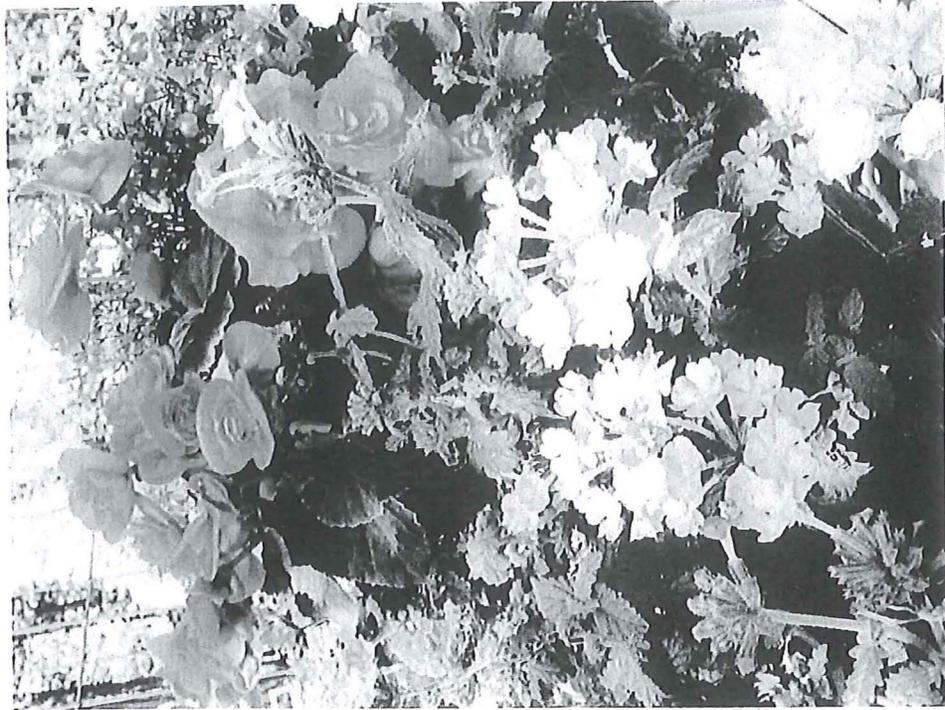
Community Hospital is likely to loose personell, departments considered to be redundant, and above all Identity. It will likely be treated as a step-child operation if an in-town hospital takes Community on as an adjunct.

We are fortunate to have a choice of hospitals unlike many Montana areas. Please consider your other alternative.

Competition breeds industry and excellance while absorption does not.

Please give the public an opportunity to have

(over)



11/12/2014

a choice when they need it.

I appreciate your consideration and would like to hear from you regarding my concerns.

Sincerely,

Am I all wet or are these real issues?

From:
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 8:31 AM
To: Contact Us
Subject: CMC merger

To The Board:

I am writing to encourage you to vote AGAINST any merger of CMC with Providence Hospital. I believe it is very important to have the CHOICE of more than one hospital in a community. COMPETITION is a good thing because it inspires health care providers to improve performance, drives down health care costs, and is better for the public.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

From: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 8:49 AM
Sent:
To: Contact Us
Subject: CMC MERGER

To Whom it May Concern:

I strongly disagree with CMC merging with another regional care provider. This town needs competition, taking that away would leave the patients with no choice in their healthcare and force smaller practices into a corporation. Women's rights/choice could also be at risk if merged with a facility to did not offer those services. You would force residents of Missoula to seek care outside of the area. If you keep absorbing jobs, pushing small businesses from succeeding, this community will continue to sink. CMC has it's hands in many other smaller facilities, changing that structure could be a downward spiral for most of them.

Sincerely,
Concerned Citizen

From: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 9:30 AM
ent: Contact Us
fo: Merger comment
Subject:

To the Board of Community Medical Center:

Please, please, please do not make Missoula a one hospital town. If Providence is allowed to be the only hospital in town health care costs will go up and the quality of health care will go down. Competition is always good for the consumer. In this case competition is also good for the physicians and many other health care employees in town.

Please give this article a read: <http://www.governing.com/topics/health-human-services/gov-massachusetts-hospital-mergers.html>

As a health care consumer living in Missoula, I ask you to not merge the two hospitals in town.

Sincerely,

From:
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 12:53 PM
To: Contact Us
Subject: Merger

I am writing to voice my opinion about the possible merger between CMC and the two other regional providers. I am discouraged to hear about the merger in general, as I feel our community is best served by a local organization. If a decision to merge is made however, it is imperative that CMC remains independent from St. Pats. Patients deserve a choice when it comes to their healthcare. A merger with Providence eliminates that choice and is a direct disservice to our community. Knowing that patients have a choice, drives competition for providers to be the best. Separate hospitals with different treatment programs and protocols increases options as well. This is crucial, as what works for one patient may not work for another. So I ask that you keep the best interest of the community in mind when making your decision. Please choose against a merger with Providence.