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January 3, 2012

VIA FAX: 806-935-6578

Jeff Turner
CEO, Moore County Hospital District
224 E. Second Street
Dumas, TX 79029

Re: Problems I am having with the Moore County Hospital District

Dear Mr. Turner:

I have sent the MCHD several letters in the past several weeks; however they were not addressed to anyone specifically, so I am summarizing all of my issues in this letter to you.

In 2010 I began communicating with the Medical Transcription Supervisor and offered to save the hospital money on their medical transcription expenses but she refused to discuss the matter further with me.(1) The end of last year I spoke with you on the phone and you told me that you were happy outsourcing the dictation.(2)

In the meantime I was driving to Amarillo to have my diabetes, hypertension and high cholesterol followed. After a while I was discontinued by the clinic (for no specified reason, which I suspected may be because I was low-income and out of county). I contacted the JCAHO and after receiving no response, I gave up, because I could not afford the gas expense and did not follow my diabetes.

Several months ago I went to the Moore County Hospital District Health Fair, had my blood pressure and fasting blood glucose checked, both of which were dangerously high, HOWEVER, none of the technicians referred me to any doctor's office or clinic.(3) As a result I applied and qualified for the Moore County Hospital District Indigent Care program. However, I have not been able to find a local doctor who is accepting new patients. (4)

Pat in the Indigent Care office told me if I had contacted every doctor in Moore County to be followed and could not find one, to go to the Emergency Room as a last resort, which I have done twice. On the 1st visit, Dr. Sherwood performed a hemoglobin A1c

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and refilled my pain medications for 2 months. Before I ran out of the medications, on December 8, I wrote Dr. Sherwood, informing him that the Nurse Practitioner's office he had told me about was not accepting new patients, but I did not receive a response to that letter. (5)

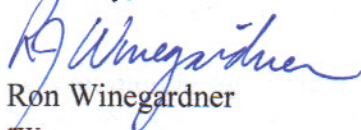
I ran out of the medications last week, presented to the ER and Dr. Sherwood was not there. I spoke with Dr. Niziol, who was not willing to perform a hemoglobin A1c (6) and only refilled my medications for 1 month. He discussed the importance of losing weight and told me that losing 3-1/2 pounds a month would be sufficient. I asked if MCHD had a weight loss group (WeightWatchers clone, etc.) to assist me with this and he replied "No". (7)

I told Dr. Niziol that I had read in the Moore County News that some new doctors were touring the area but have not received any contact from Pat in Indigent Care that these doctors would be available. Dr. Niziol even stated that doctors in other counties would be willing to see MCHD IC patients but Pat has not notified me there is relief anywhere in the future. (8) I also suggested that if there were no doctors accepting new patients in Moore County, the hospital district should have a Community Health Clinic, like they do in Amarillo. (9) Why is MCHD so negligent in providing care for its citizens, even though they are funded by local taxpayers?

For the first refill of my medications through the emergency room, I went to Walmart and was charged \$4 each. For the second refill, I went to the Pillbox Pharmacy and was not charged for any of the prescriptions. I noticed that Pillbox charged the MCHD between \$38 and \$43 for each prescription. I wrote a letter to the MCHD and did not receive a response. (10)

Here are my 10 specified complaints against the Moore County Hospital District. I would appreciate your providing a response and scheduling me to address these concerns at the soonest convenient date with the MCHD Board of Directors.

Sincerely,


Ron Winegardner

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Attachments