

Slidell Sentry-News

**Should you vote to sell Slidell's
only not-for-profit hospital?**
You and your family's future healthcare depends
on getting the facts before you vote on April 5th.

"Competition vs. Monopoly?"

Right now, you have CHOICES in healthcare. You can CHOOSE between two "full service, acute care" hospitals. So can your doctor. In any market, having only one owner eliminates choice. No options. No competition. A virtual monopoly. And you know what a monopoly can do to prices.

Common sense tells us all that two "full-service, acute care" hospitals in the Slidell area, owned by the same corporation, is a monopoly.

Vote NO on April 5th.

"If we vote no, will Slidell Memorial close its doors?"

No, There are several ways to prevent that. Let's examine the real facts:

FACT: The chairman of the SMH Board has said, "SMH can continue for 18 to 24 months."

Time enough to examine and act on other options.
(Al Hamann, SMH Board Chairman, February 11, 2001, Military Road Alliance Forum.)

FACT: Financial options exist if the vote fails, including other investors. Why can't you know their names? They signed confidentiality agreements. They're not allowed to say.

FACT: There are several options available to SMH. Capital Restructuring through debt refinancing—taking advantage of the lowest interest rates in 40 years—could decrease debt service and free up cash for capital improvements. Investors are waiting until after the vote, when they can identify themselves.

The SMH board needs to change to include more expertise in the areas of business and healthcare management.

(Act 180 is currently undergoing revision, and will be introduced this session, according to Senator Test Scheidt, District 11.)

All of these steps could be taken well in advance of 18 to 24 months.

FACT: SMH is meeting payroll and not missing bond payments. SMH is operating in the black.

Slidell Memorial does not have to close its doors or curtail services.

Vote NO on April 5th.

- Did you know? By state legislation (Act 180) the mission of Slidell Memorial Hospital as a community, not-for-profit hospital is to "provide quality healthcare to the community."
- The primary goal of any corporate hospital is very different. The corporate bottom line requires profits to the shareholders. First.

"What are we really voting for?"

A contract. A legal document. Not verbal promises or pretty pictures.

Prominent community people may be telling you to vote for this sale. You've seen their pictures. Have they read the agreement? Please ask them.

Do you know this Agreement is about 80-pages long, and has nearly 800 pages of attachments? Do you know what's in all those pages?

What's in the agreement that they haven't told you?

1. SMH currently is a "full-service, acute-care" hospital. Yet the Asset Purchase Agreement refers to the future SMH as an "acute care," or even "general hospital." The voters need to know whether SMH will no longer be "full service" or even "acute care." They need to know before they vote. (Article 5A, Asset Purchase Agreement)
2. What current services might be lost?
3. Although SMH employees have been promised they will be "hired," the Asset Purchase Agreement actually defines them thereafter as "terminable at-will" employees. (Article 12.1.A, Asset Purchase Agreement)
4. The exact functions of the "foundation" have not been made public. Did you know the "foundation" is prohibited by a non-competition agreement in the contract from providing services that can be provided by the purchaser (Tenet) for five years. Wouldn't that include all healthcare services? (Article 12.1, Asset Purchase Agreement)
5. The "\$40 million dollars of enhancements" promised to the current SMH building are not guaranteed in the actual Asset Purchase Agreement. It says these funds could be spent elsewhere, creating a "campus" concept. NorthShore Regional could be part of the campus. Exactly where would those enhancements be made? (Article 5A, Asset Purchase Agreement)

Visit Save Our Slidell Memorial Hospital on the web: www.sosmhl.org
You won't find promises. You will find many reasons not to sell Slidell Memorial Hospital.

SAVE OUR SLIDELL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

(985) 649-4348

VOTE NO ON APRIL 5th.

www.sosmhl.org

“Many working families don’t have any health insurance. Where do we go if General Hospital is padlocked?”

Thousands of San Luis Obispo County’s working poor and uninsured depend on General Hospital and Family Care Centers for their medical safety net. They have no other choice.

Now county officials are making definite plans to close the hospital down forever. But they offer only vague ideas about where people will go for their medical care.

Under California law, public officials must seek the community’s views when they cut back community health services. This law gives all of us the power to ask tough questions — and get the answers we need.

Want to join in or simply attend the public hearing? For official details call the county at (805) 781-5011. *Se habla español.*

PUBLIC HEARING
9am, Tuesday, June 4
Board of Supervisors’
Chambers
County Government
Center
1035 Palm 1st Santa Rosa
San Luis Obispo

We have questions. Do they have answers?

This announcement sponsored by the San Luis Obispo General Hospital & Family Care Clinics Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 14105, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
Pam Marshall Heatherington and Vita Miller, Founding Directors.
Call (805) 528-5926 for more information.

HELP SAVE DANIEL FREEMAN MARINA HOSPITAL!

EVER SINCE Tenet Healthcare Corporation bought the Daniel Freeman Marina Hospital and Emergency Room, the future of this important community facility has been in doubt.

In May, Tenet announced that it was going to shut down the hospital and emergency room. Fortunately Attorney General Bill Lockyer persuaded a judge to temporarily halt the hospital closure. On the heels of strong community activism, Tenet recently announced that it is "reassessing" its decision to close and is holding hearings to gather public input about the operation of the hospital and the community's health care needs. Your voice is needed to help preserve our community's health care resources.



COME TO THE COMMUNITY MEETINGS:

Monday-September 23rd & Tuesday-October 8th, 6 PM

Venice High School - 13000 Venice Blvd. - Venice

COME TO BOTH MEETINGS TO SHARE:

- Stories about how the hospital has met your medical needs
- What you count on from the Marina Hospital
- What you would do if Marina Hospital was closed

You Can Make a Difference!!

For more information visit the SOMH-Save Our Marina Hospital Coalition website at www.somh.org or call 310-306-1487. SOMH is a coalition made up of community groups, physicians and medical staff, neighborhood councils, and religious organizations.