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Lopez, Donna

From: Lynn Nanos [lynnnanos@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 5:04 PM
To: Lopez, Donna; sakafury@challiance.org; webmaster@challiance.org; City Manager
Subject: my unpopular opinion regarding the plans to merge Psychiatric Emergency Department with the rest of the ED at CHA

Importance: High

To whom it may concern,

Most hospital emergency departments throughout MA do not have the type of set up that CHA and UMMC in Worcester have. As a Mobile Psychiatric Emergency Services Clinician who has evaluated many hundreds of psychiatric patients at both of these types of emergency departments (eg, including merged ED settings - Winchester Hospital, Lahey Hospital, St. Vincent's Hospital, etc.), *I am not alarmed by this plan. I have seen no difference whatsoever in regards to the quality of care provided to patients in both of these setting.* I strongly believe that efficiency and streamlining are critical pieces to ensuring that patients are transferred to the next level of care as quickly as possible.

A patient entering a hospital emergency department with primarily cardiac concerns does not get triaged to a specialized cardiac unit. A patient needed specialized cancer treatment doesn't get triaged to a specialized oncology unit. There's no need to make the stigma against the mentally ill worse.

One argument against this plan points to the possibility of the 24 hour availability of excellent care being interrupted. I do not believe that this is an accurate prediction. I wonder if this uproar and all the protesting are more related to the disappointing loss of employment than fully caring for what's in the best interest of the patients. There are more urgent priorities that mental health advocates should be concerned about, such as the lack of Assisted Outpatient Treatment, the lack of enough state beds, etc.

Lynn Nanos, LICSW