

www.SaveOurSGH.org

Suburban General Hospital (SGH) is now considered for closure by WPAHS (West Penn Allegheny Health System) and (Allegheny General Hospital) AGH. As many saw in recent newspaper articles "they" are considering diminishing it to an outpatient facility. We need to challenge this.

Our advocacy by any all means is now critical. The disregard for our community needs by the West Penn Allegheny Health System should not go without a response. After recent similar events with South Side Hospital and Braddock we should not trust that inaction and hope are adequate- WE MUST ACT NOW!

Not too long ago a letter from Dr. Olivia to appeal the closure of Braddock Hospital was published. There were comments of how the economy of Braddock and jobs would be affected as well as patients being denied the hospital and nurses they had known for years. Sounds familiar.

- We should seek the restoration of what has been removed or diminished.
- Restore basic services such as Urology, Orthopedics that responds to our community's needs, and radiology services that have been diminished to name a few.
- Reverse the patterns of EMS to divert patients to AGH(Allegheny General Hospital) - by not discouraging this, it has been encouraged. This problem has been going on for several years.
- Advertise SGH (Suburban General Hospital) and its emergency room as a hospital that takes care of acutely ill patients.
- We do not accept that cost is an issue when we read in the newspaper or AGH newsletter of yet more administrators being hired. Thinks how many nurses, aides, or other workers salaries this equals. Will AGH be the only concern in this system?
- Respect the doctors. Where have all the doctors gone? Recruit doctors and treat them well so they will bring patients to SGH. Apparently many have left, retired, or go to hospitals where they are not separated from their patients by bad system policy. Some have reported that they won't go to AGH as it is very difficult to work there. Many of us as patients do not want to go to AGH for many reasons. We pay for our healthcare and have a right to make this decision.
- Respect the nurses and other allied professionals. The WPAHS has denied SGH nurses and many other SGH workers their patients, their work, and their livelihoods to forward the system/AGH agenda.
- Respect this community. It is a betrayal of the community to continue to do our hospital what UPMC did to Braddock.

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Post Gazette Newspaper- Medical Reporter Steve Twedt --- STwedt@post-gazette.com

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