



February 27, 2024

Advocates for Aging Care ask the Champaign County Board for Their Help to Address the Shortage of Nursing Home Skilled Care Beds in the County

URBANA, IL – Advocates for Aging Care (AAC) addressed the Champaign County Board members tonight at the study session. The goal of the study session was to discuss the lifting of the restriction on the sale of the former nursing home building. AAC attended this session to convey to the Champaign County Board the urgency of addressing the need for additional nursing home care beds in the county. Based on the Illinois Department of Public Health calculations, we need an additional 300 skilled care beds in Champaign County. AAC believes that this will continue to be an issue as the baby-boomers are aging and may be in need of specialized care. With the closing of University Rehabilitation, we lost 243 beds. If the Champaign County Board decides to lift the restriction on the sale of the facility,, allowing it to be sold for something other than a nursing home operation, AAC will support this decision , with the understanding that the Board will partner with AAC to find a solution to the current problem.

“We appreciate the county board’s willingness to hold this study session to discuss this critical matter,” said Susan Schnuer of AAC. “We know the facility lost its license for skilled nursing beds and we understand the facility may not be the best structure for a contemporary skilled nursing facility or senior housing.”

AAC, in cooperation with Champaign-Urbana Public Health District, recently launched two surveys: one for consumers and another for providers, and has interviewed and has plans to hire a consultant for a market study. The results of the survey and market study will be used to develop a plan to address the need for skilled care beds in Champaign County.

The Champaign County Board is not the only AAC partner in this endeavour. ACC has been working closely with local health care and social service agencies, both hospitals and Christie Clinic as well as representatives from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.