

Mom Dumping Continues

Arizona MAD MOM's Want Answers!

St. Luke's hospital serves Arizona's most vulnerable citizens. Those incapacitated with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and in need of secure treatment at a Level One facility. The state has a critical shortage of SMI treatment hospital beds. MAD MOM's loved ones continue to die because of the state's negligence in providing SMI hospital beds for those requiring Court-Ordered Treatment to recover.

MAD MOM's want to know:

- Why did the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) order St. Luke's Hospital to stop operations?
- For years the ADHS tolerated compromised quality of care at St. Lukes without intervention - **What's Changed Now?**
- Why did ADHS continually fail to provide oversight of St. Luke's facility?
- How has the quality of care at St. Luke's gotten so bad that the Arizona Attorney General's office had to step in to protect citizens from ADHS's failures?
- Why isn't ADHS protecting the interest of Arizona's most vulnerable and incapacitated citizens, their caretakers, and their neighbors?
- Why did the Governor's office appoint Jennie Cunico to the top position at the Arizona Department of Health Service and allow her to exercise authority illegally?
- Many of St. Luke's patients were receiving court ordered treatment and require level one care?
 - Where did St. Luke's patients get transferred to?
 - Did they transfer with a treatment plan and medication?
 - Were they placed in an appropriate facility licensed to provide involuntary care?
- What is AHCCCS/Mercy Care's strategic plan for replacing these critically needed hospital beds?
- Why does the burden of care for the most vulnerable and incapacitated citizens continue to be dumped on MOM's and family members.

AZ mad moms demands the Governor takes measures needed to reinstate those 100 life-saving beds.

AZ MAD MOM's Have Some Answers

St. Luke Hospital operation and quality concerns were predictable and manageable. ADHS failed to provide oversight and intervention as part of a larger strategic plan to meet the needs of the community. The St. Luke's Hospital closure isn't a surprise. ADHS suspension of the hospital's license doesn't serve the needs of the community; it dramatically exacerbates a much larger issue.

It is the **culmination of a catastrophic negligence** in protecting public health and providing oversight and funding for essential health services.

The Arizona State Government and ADHS leadership has facilitated the institutional and political failures that plague our Behavioral Health Industry. The systemic failures include:

1. Poor policy decisions
2. Lack of competent leadership
3. Failure to fund secure behavioral health facilities
4. Abdication of accountability
5. Diversion of the mentally ill to the streets and criminal justice system.

In Arizona someone with a Serious Mental Illness is 32 times more likely to be incarcerated than hospitalized according to the Treatment Advocacy Center, *Fast Facts on SMI in Arizona*.

MAD MOM's calls on Behavioral Healthcare Policy Leaders to:

- Reinststate the license for the continued operation of St. Lukes or immediately open 100 incremental beds at another Level One facility
- Conduct a comprehensive review of hospital beds for SMI Census.
- Resolve shortages in services for Court Ordered Evaluations, Court Ordered Treatment, and Secured Behavioral Health Residential Facilities.
- Recruit and retain appropriately experienced and competent Behavioral Healthcare Leaders and workforce.

It's time to end the systemic discrimination against those suffering from the most severe mental illnesses.

This message is brought to you by AZ Mad Moms.

*Contact us at <https://arizonamadmoms.com> for
Mental Health advocacy, information, resources and support.*