

I have practiced medicine in Homer for the past 33 years. I held privileges and practiced medicine at South Peninsula Hospital for 29 of those years. Beginning in 2011, the SPH administrator began approaching me on a regular basis asking what it would take for me to consider selling my practice to SPH. In January 2013, he formally offered me a buyout based on the “depreciated value “of the equipment and offered me a “medical director” position for 12 hours per month at \$150/hour. I delayed responding to what I felt was a ludicrous offer; however, he kept hounding me for a response.

On 4/2/2013 I sent the following reply: I appreciate your efforts; however, unfortunately I believe that allowing a takeover of Kachemak Bay Medical Clinic by the hospital would not be in the best interest of the community or myself. When South Peninsula Hospital took over the Xray equipment at my facility, the cost of those services to the public nearly tripled in cost and at the same time limited the access for my patients. It is my belief that the same thing would happen to all outpatient services if SPH was allowed to have a monopoly. In addition, it would leave me personally vulnerable to the whims of SPH, its employed physicians, and its board of directors. It has been expressed by all of the physicians and midlevels at KBMC, that there appears to be two standards of care depending on which side of the street you originate from. I cannot in good conscience allow my patients, staff, or myself to placed in that situation.

Within a week, I and the other providers at KBMC, began feeling we were being singled out and felt it had become a hostile work environment which featured intimidation and a double standard for expectations. As a result, I dropped my privileges at SPH in February 2016, one of my partners dropped his privileges the following year, and my other partner elected to relocate citing the hostile work conditions at the hospital. This certainly decreased our contact with SPH until last year when I applied for a conditional use permit to build a new medical clinic. This resulted in SPH paying employees to attend hospital meetings to encourage them to testify against the project at the public hearings, as well as they had their hospital attorney, board members, and even attempted to get the state representative to oppose the project at the hearings. Although, I disagree that it is right for a public “nonprofit” entity be allowed to utilize taxpayer funds to lobby against a private individual, I did not feel strongly enough that I felt the Borough Mayor or the Assembly should be involved. However, that changed by an event that I feel was so egregious, unethical, and probably illegal, that I felt it could no longer remain outside the purviews of the borough.

On August 23, 2019 while I and two other medical providers were actively seeing patients, the public relations director of South Peninsula Hospital entered into the private medical practice of Kachemak Medical Clinic. Despite observing that the clinic was actively delivering patient care, she exited the clinic and proceeded to place signs on the doors entering the clinic that stated, “NOTICE! Kachemak Bay Medical Center is PERMANENTLY CLOSED Homer Medical Center is taking new patients and has time for you! Go across the street to 4136 Bartlett Street or call 907-235-8586 to arrange an appointment. “The logo for SPH was at the bottom of the sign.

The first knowledge I had of this sign was when a patient took this picture and forwarded it to us. There obviously was no factual basis to the sign; however, even if there was, what would give the administration or a member of their leadership team the right to place such a sign on a private

business they did not own or even on a building they did not own without the permission of either the landlord or the owner of the business. Despite Ryan Smith the CEO of SPH being very aware of this indiscretion, there has been no attempt to reach out to the providers of KBMC and offer an apology, a reprimand for those involved, or a public statement condemning this act. This libelous action was done with malice and forethought. As the Kenai Peninsula Borough is ultimately responsible for the actions of those entities for which they have contracted to run SPH as a borough owned hospital, the potential liability and recklessness of this damaging and derogatory act should be alarming.

Thank you

Paul Raymond MD

NOTICE!

Kachemak Bay Medical Center is PERMANENTLY CLOSED

**Homer Medical Center is taking
new patients and has time for you!**

**Go across the street to 4136 Bartlett Street or
call 907-235-8586 to arrange an appointment.**



South
Peninsula
Hospital

Homer Medical Center