

Thomas J. Adamek

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Via e-mail: ann.marmande@fmolhs.org

Ms. Ann Marie Marmande
President
Our Lady of the Lake Foundation
P.O. Box 84357
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70884

Dear Ann Marie:

What are the odds that I would be sitting where I am – Chair of Our Lady of the Lake Foundation and Board Chair of Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center? I was honored to have been asked to serve on the OLOL Foundation Board as I believed the Lake was a revered organization that was sincere in its mission of providing high quality care. Likewise, I was honored to be asked to serve on the MBP Board due to its reputation of providing the highest quality cancer care, regardless of the patient's ability to pay. I have heretofore been an ardent supporter of both organizations.

But, here we are in what appears to be a defining moment for both organizations, and I happen to benefit from being deeply involved in the much discussed negotiations between the two organizations in an effort to extend the now 9+ year old affiliation agreement. This has provided me with unique insight into both organizations. I do not like the way this has unfolded, and it has caused me to reflect on my role as Chair of Our Lady of the Lake Foundation given what I have recently viewed as spiteful, wasteful and morally indefensible behavior by OLOL leadership, which appears to have been endorsed by leaders within the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System. With all due respect, OLOL and the System have lost their way and to me appear to have departed completely from their mission. The actions I have witnessed are so inconsistent with my own convictions that it makes it impossible to continue to serve as Chair of Our Lady of the Lake Foundation.

The entire Foundation Board has worked tirelessly to generate funding to support the work of OLOL. The need for a free-standing Children's Hospital was clear and evident. What is not clear and evident is why OLOL would want to spend \$100 million to duplicate resources that are already available on the campus through Mary Bird Perkins, with whom OLOL had partnered with successfully in the past. As Scott Wester has said to us in the past, "the partnership with MBP has been terrific for Our Lady of the Lake". In my view of the past 18 months, MBP sought only to expand the degree to which the partnership would have been terrific for cancer patients and OLOL – not only in Baton Rouge, but by offering to include MBP's other locations, which exist across a much larger service area compared to OLOL's. I believe what MBP asked for in return was fair and appropriate and would have ensured great care in the future for thousands of cancer patients, and incidentally would have made OLOL a lot of money. Despite that, OLOL had apparently started planning a year ago to direct vast amounts of resources and capital not to unmet needs, but to create a competing cancer services organization that is sure to dilute the support required to meet the needs of our community.

Just this week Scott Wester announced that OLOL had been working on its big “Cancer Center” announcement for over a year. If that is true – OLOL/FMOLHS played me and the others who participated in the negotiations for fools – as the negotiations were a side show.

What may have been viewed as the negotiations drug on as gamesmanship has turned to dishonesty and misinformation. A few examples:

- Despite working for months with Chartis consulting through a \$450K engagement that MBP and OLOL split the cost and reaching an agreement in principle in December 2020 to a structure that would enhance cancer care, that plan was suddenly cast aside by the System in January 2021, instead suggesting a “member substitution”. This revelation occurred after MBP, OLOL/FMOLHS had signed a new Phase II consulting agreement with Chartis to build out the structure agreed to in Phase I. After much debate, MBP agreed to consider the approach and in April, Scott Wester conveyed an FMOL Term Sheet proposing that MBP “give” its entire operation to FMOL.
- Despite MBP repeatedly advising members of the OLOL Executive Committee and Scott Wester that the affiliation agreement was expiring, and we needed to reach an agreement by July 31, 2021, so that MBP and OLOL would have time to structure the path forward. Beginning in June, MBP repeatedly relayed to OLOL/FMOL that MBP had secured another option (OneOncology) and OLOL/FMOLS showed no urgency or willingness to reach agreement around key matters.
- In the end, after 18 months of negotiations, meetings, one-on-one lunches, phone calls, etc., the final version of the terms proposed by OLOL was nothing more than a “commitment to keep negotiating.”

Frankly, there is much more to the story, and I don’t know whether it was dysfunction or deceit, but for me the straw that broke the camel’s back, was the actions taken this week by OLOL against Louisiana Hematology Oncology Associates. This includes a termination notice of the Professional Services Agreement for the work LHOA has provided for years for the benefit of at-risk cancer patients of the LSU Health Clinic in North Baton Rouge. Currently five LHOA physicians provide professional services for cancer patients at the LSU North Clinic. LHOA was insistent that any future relationship they would have with MBP would support their continuing this important work. This was followed by another Notice of Termination “for Cause” and threatened denial of access to a key feature of the EPIC electronic medical records that allows LHOA to order chemotherapy for its patients and a lawsuit related to services provided by LHOA for OLOL at the cancer center. The allegations OLOL cited in their Notice of Termination were specious, and the consequences of which they must have known would prove detrimental to patients. These actions will severely compromise access to care for the hundreds of cancer patients cared for by LHOA physicians. All these patients are also OLOL and/or MBP patients. Why would a Christian organization knowingly be willing to risk harm to others?

We all make choices on where to devote our time, treasure and talents. I just cannot continue to support an organization which apparently has become morally bankrupt. Thus, I respectfully and regretfully resign my position as Chairman and a Board Member of the OLOL Foundation.

Regards,

Thomas J. Adamek

Cc: Mr. Scott Wester
OLOL Foundation Board of Directors