



ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

ESTABLISHED 1830

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 21, 2023

Portage Manor Residents, Families, and Community Partners,

The St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners (“BOC”) seeks to correct misinformation that has been disseminated regarding the closure plan for Portage Manor. Inaccurate and false information has been released, and the BOC would like to avoid causing unnecessary hardship and anxiety for the residents and families of Portage Manor. The Portage Manor closure plan, with a stated closure date of July 31, 2023, has been approved by the State of Indiana. Although the BOC will ensure that every resident has an option for housing before formally closing Portage Manor, the BOC intends to act in accordance with the State approved plan and work to place every resident in safe and suitable housing by July 31, 2023. The date of closure will only be extended in the event Portage Manor staff and its consultants are unable to find viable State approved options for housing for every resident.

To ensure that accurate information is being released to residents, families, and the public, the BOC asks that any inquiries about the closure plan be directed to the BOC. To the extent information is sought related to housing options for the residents of Portage Manor, the BOC asks that inquiries be directed to Kortney Mullins, Administrator of Portage Manor. Ensuring a consistent point of contact for the residents and families as well as the public will ensure that only accurate information is being disseminated.

There has been misinformation released that residents are being pushed out of the county, that very few of the Portage Manor residents are obtaining the necessary designations for skilled or waiver facilities, and that there is not sufficient suitable housing for the residents. Additionally, a community partner released a list of possible homes that Portage Manor residents can move to that included homeless shelters. Moving to a homeless shelter is not an option that the BOC have ever or will ever consider for the placement of a resident. With proper assessments, numerous residents will qualify for waiver and skilled beds and will have the ability to stay within St. Joseph County. Furthermore, as of last week, Lake Residential had between 30-50 beds available, Millers Beach Terrace had 20 beds, and Noble Senior Living had 40 beds. Although there are numerous potential options available to the residents depending on their personal situation, 3 of the 22 RCAP facilities in the state are currently able to accommodate all of the Portage Manor residents.



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Although the County is pursuing a potential partnership with a local partner to open a new nearby RCAP facility, there are many items out of the control of the BOC that need to be resolved prior to confirming the potential partner will be a viable option. Specifically, the potential partner's corporate governing body has not yet confirmed it will participate in a partnership, the State has not yet begun working towards approvals necessary to open the facility, and any agreement that would be entered into with the potential partner would need to be approved by both the full Council and the full BOC. Thus, this option is not a current possibility and should not be relied upon as an option for the residents. However, it is clear that all of the residents of Portage Manor will have the ability to find a safe and suitable home.

Should you have any questions please feel free to reach out to President Baxmeyer.

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Media Inquiries: sjccom@sjcindiana.com