

# Health care workers just want to do their job

I have been a registered nurse in this community for more than 25 years and have a stellar professional reputation in the field of long-term care; I have assisted hundreds of community members examine all long-term care options. I have worked very hard for this reputation and it remains of utmost importance to me. That said, I must emphatically state that I would never work for a facility in which I didn't believe in, nor would I promote that facility to anyone. Sullivan County has many talented and caring employees who work diligently to provide the highest level of care to our residents. We provide a home for many people in their final days and sometimes their final years. In many cases, our employees become "family" to these individuals. We also

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## Patti Koscielniak

### County Health Care

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provide rehabilitative care to people following illness, injury and/or surgery and assist them to safely return to their home as quickly as possible.

I am proud to be a member of the management team at Sullivan County Health Care; I applaud and support Sullivan County Health Care Administrator Scott Wojtkiewicz's leadership and insistence that employees be held accountable for doing the job that they were hired to do. I also strongly support Director of Nursing, Heidi Smith, RN. She is one of the very best nurses with which I

have ever worked and she works tirelessly as an advocate for residents and employees alike.

The management team at Sullivan County Health Care always puts the welfare of our residents as well as potential residents as top priority. I would expect our elected officials to do the same. To those elected officials who continue to use the residents and employees of Sullivan County Health Care as pawns towards personal and political agendas, I say, "Shame on you!" Your constant negativity is frightening and upsetting to our residents and demoralizing to our employees. When our residents read these stories they verbalize their increased anxiety. Our very best employees report that they "can only take so much" of the impression that they provide "bad

care. The employees of Sullivan County Health Care are not politicians; we just want to do our jobs, not be involved in your political games. I beg these elected officials to allow the medical professionals to do their jobs; please stop this foolishness. I am not suggesting that you abandon your elected duty of oversight; I'm pleading that you put the welfare of our residents above your political agendas.

It is very frustrating to me that these elected officials ignore the hard work of Sullivan County department heads and other elected officials, such as Sheriff Prozzo, County Attorney Marc Hathaway and Registrar of Deeds Sharron King, who, along with County Manager Ed Gil deRubio spent many hours developing a report

that outlined our concerns as well as our suggestions to address these concerns. We have requested meetings with the delegation to discuss this report, but scheduled meetings have been cancelled by the delegation and not rescheduled. We have very good ideas if the delegation would only listen to us!

I am sorry that April Bartley resigned; however, I understand her dissatisfaction and I wish her well. To the elected officials who are causing so much strife, please stop before Sullivan County loses more talented health care professionals.

*Guest columnist Patti S. Koscielniak is external care coordinator for Sullivan County Health Care.*