

Sheila de la Guerra

## Public Comment

**From:** 1hundredpercent <1hundredpercent@protonmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2023 3:32 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Comment for Board of Supervisors Meeting 10/17/23

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Hello,

This comment is in regard to item A-22, and the Public Health Department's decision to prematurely terminate its contract with Lawrence Bines, MD.

I would like to remain anonymous, as I fear retaliation from coworkers at the Public Health Department.

I am an employee of the Public Health Department (PHD), and I have worked closely with the OB/GYN department for many years. I understand the notion that this is micromanagement of PHD issues and it should be left to the director, but in this case, on behalf of our patients, I ask that you please intervene. Terminating the PHD contract with Dr. Bines will put our most underserved population of patients at risk, and negatively affect our whole community.

I would like to clarify that this is not about "shifting business needs" or cost savings. If it were, these concerns should have been raised during contract negotiations, but they were not, and the PHD chose to renew its contract with Dr. Bines only 3 months ago. This issue is the result of a coordinated ousting campaign leveled against Dr. Bines by a few of his former coworkers. It is sad that the personal issues of a few have been able to influence our leadership into making such hasty and consequential decisions.

I have already seen the OB/GYN department descend into chaos since Dr. Bines's suspension in August. There is no sustainable plan in place to adequately cover his patients. Dr. Bines had a good relationship with Cottage and Sansum, and the PHD relied on this to coordinate patient care. Now Sansum has ceased to cooperate with the PHD, and there has been a mad scramble to reschedule procedures and get displaced patients the care they need.

Aside from being a horrible way to treat someone who has dedicated 24 years of service to Public Health, the premature termination of Dr. Bines's contract would leave hundreds of patients without access to timely care. This is dangerous and irresponsible, and our patients deserve better.

Thank you.

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