

Untitled

Commission Meeting

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Comments:

Recently, Sandoval Regional Medical Center (SRMC) has received authorization to use Mill Levy funds approved in 2018 for COVID related issues. The Mill Levy was initially presented to the residents of Sandoval County for vote approval to expand Trauma and Psychiatric services at SRMC. While the use of these funds for COVID related expenses is understandable, I believe that the voters should be aware of where their tax dollars are being used. These funds needs to be used in order to allow SRMC to continue on the path to becoming a level 3 trauma center-- which is vitally important for the county and especially important for those patients being transferred from more distant areas of Sandoval County/New Mexico. It was recently decided by the SRMC administration that the UNM Anesthesiology department personnel stationed at SRMC will be replaced with a private anesthesia staffing company (UNM anesthesia has provided services at SRMC since it's opening). The UNM Anesthesiology department has ALWAYS provided physician anesthesiologist led anesthesia services at SRMC. The staffing model for the contracted private anesthesia group at SRMC will not use a team approach to care (certified registered nurse anesthetists will be allowed to practice independently of a physician anesthesiologist, that is there will be no direct physician anesthesiologist involvement in the anesthesia care provided at SRMC). This is an unfair compromise in safety to make for the tax payers of Sandoval County. Every patient that steps through the door for treatment at Sandoval Regional Medical Center should have the right to receive anesthesia from an anesthesiologist should the need for surgery or a high acuity case arise. This becomes even more important if SRMC receives it's trauma designation. As a citizen of Sandoval County I believe every patient should have access to the highest level of anesthesia services. Furthermore, as a tax paying resident of Sandoval County and New Mexico I believe it is wrong for a private anesthesia company to be allowed to practice at a public hospital associated with the state taxpayer supported University of New Mexico. I do not believe that certified registered nurse anesthetists are not well trained providers of anesthesia, but I do believe that a team approach involving an anesthesiologist is the safest practice. Thank you.