

What is your name and what position are you running for?

My name is Carleen Gilmore. Russell County Hospital Board #2 of which I am now serving.

Talk briefly about your work experience, public service and private sector.

My healthcare career has spanned over 35 years and included EMS, CNA, LPN, RN and Nurse Practitioner. My education includes a Bachelor and Master Degree in Nursing from FHSU. My work experience consists of hospital nursing, clinic nursing, administration, teaching and case management for Seniors. Fifteen years were spent part time at Russell County Health Department as Nurse Practitioner in Women's Health. My background of working in public, private and state hospitals and clinics has provided my knowledge of the systems and the different rules and regulations within the systems. My present public service is with healthcare organizations such as Hospice Support Groups, Grief Support for Children, Caregiver Support Groups, and Senior Care.

Why are you running for this position?

My reason for running for this position is to help to provide the best services for our Russell Regional Hospital and to care for all the citizens in Russell County. I am confronting the proverbial "elephant in the room" which has never been formally and publically addressed. I am risking public criticism, scrutiny and ugly Facebook posts of which my 2 running mates and I have already experienced. The Hospital Boards are a broken system. It is a two Board System – WCKA, the private board, and the Russell County Hospital Board. There is a lease between the 2 boards dating from 1997. This lease has been updated to extend the date of the leases and for the addition of a 2018 State of Kansas Open Records Law which clearly states the importance of sharing financial information with the County Board. This results from a Kansas Supreme Court Case between a 2 hospital board system where the private board refused to share information with the County Board. Very few hospitals use this dual system. Russell Hospital is the only board that does not have health care professionals on their day-to-day operations. In today's healthcare world, board members must be familiar with and aware of the ever changing rules and regulations within the Federal and State Systems along with the latest practices and trends in the hospital systems. In the Russell Board System there seems to be to be many "unwritten rules" for each board. There is also a lack of attendance and participation from board members of each board. There are many conflicts of interest between the 2 boards. WCKA has 2 generations of family, 2 families have a board member on each board, and the majority of other board members involve professional services and regular income from each other. The County Board annually transfers part of the sales tax revenue money to WCKA to assist the WCKA in providing services. My first hand observation is lack of transparency, communication and accountability between the two boards. I have observed issues of concern regarding cost and safety which were not addressed by either board. This observation is made from my healthcare knowledge and experience. We need to have more healthcare professionals on these boards to keep our hospital running safely, financially sound and in line with Federal and State Rules and Regulations. Audit reports have cited concerns multiple times and little corrective action has been taken. Main Street Manor has issues.

What goals or ideas do you have that you would work toward if elected?

Our community needs this hospital. I don't hear complaints about the quality of care for our patients. I hear only good things. We must provide the best working environment for our patient care staff. We

must be able to serve our patients and recruit and retain our valued staff. We must be able to compete with the hospitals around us not only in providing services but in staff wages. Services need to be reevaluated. Lost revenue is becoming an issue. The County Board needs to be allowed first hand financial information. The hospital needs to become a community hub and provide services that are needed related to healthcare and our citizen's needs for all ages. It is vital to do strategic planning. It is vital to have professionals inspect and evaluate our hospital infrastructure. Hospital equipment must have a systematic maintenance and replacement schedule. We need to improve organization and professionalism within the hospital administration. These are goals and ideas I see as necessary.

Anything else about yourself you would like to mention.

Those who know me understand that I have dedicated my career and private life to taking care of people. I am dedicated to a cause I believe is vital to the community. My 35 years of patient care and of working closely with patients, families and staff within the community have helped me understand the needs and challenges we are facing in healthcare today. I will appreciate your vote and will work hard to obtain the goals. Thank you.