

Our Lady of the Woods Status Report

Closed as of October 11, 2019

Staff

- The last day for staff was October 11. Four staff remained, the director and three others.
- After residents were gone, staff worked hard on disposing of upholstered furnishings and all items left by residents. Due to risk of bedbugs, many items were discarded.
- The director gathered all files and records, submitted the change of address, closed accounts, and reviewed the building systems with Don Evers and Elaine Ward.
- Through the closure, the staff were disgruntled and angry. One staff member told HR that, “we were like family, the residents and staff. It may have been dysfunctional, but it was a family”. The staff were further distressed by the sudden death, due to cancer, of one staff member, and the recurring cancer of another.
- At the end, the behavior of the few remaining staff deteriorated. There was some theft, including a large television and picnic table.

Residents

- Cincinnati Area Senior Service did a fantastic job helping residents find homes. They provided senior care coordination services to assist residents and their families who needed additional help.
- All residents found new accommodations, mostly by October 1. One resident, passed away two days after moving, apparently due to a heart attack. The last resident to leave found placement in temporary shelter housing for mental health clients, until a more permanent location in a group home could be secured. We are keeping her belongings until this is finalized.
- We discovered that quite a few residents needed a Medicaid determination before relocating, as they were eligible for a Medicaid waiver.

Building and Property

- The building is approximately 15- 20,000 square feet on about three acres. It was built in 1973 as a convent for the Glenmary Sisters.
- Security for the empty building is a pressing issue, with the building vacant. Of particular concern is the large amount of copper roofing material.
- The building has approximately ten outside doors, many lower windows, second floor windows that can be accessed from the low roof, window air units, and is in an isolated location with easy access from the neighboring cemetery road.
- We have hired a security patrol and are adding a chain across the driveway. We’ve installed nighttime outside lights and are going to explore adding a security system.
- The building while generally well kept, is very out of date. There is central air only in one small portion of the building and heat is provided through electric baseboards which are all individually controlled. There is no sprinkler system.

Sale of the Property

- The ad hoc building committee has met.
- Three realtors have toured. One proposal has been presented.
- One realtor has raised a question about whether the property is fully owned by FM, as the auditor’s website appears to list the archdiocese as a trustee. This is being explored.