

# Estimate of the Situation

*Critical Information for Critical Times, Edition of Wednesday, May 13, 2015*



## Communities at Risk

My intense disaffection for The *Affordable Care Act* is hardly a secret. Although it is never my intention to offend, I am not going to mince words today because time is short. The core problem goes far beyond the *Affordable Care Act*. American hospitals and American medicine are in trouble because of the catastrophic and malignant power of the Third Party Payer System around which everything else revolves.

The *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* is a last ditch and ultimately doomed attempt to postpone the collapse of Medicare, Medicaid, and the rest of the Third Party Payment system. It was designed to benefit insurance companies, large IT companies, the federal government, large corporate employers, cooperative professional and trade associations, and a bi-partisan gang of establishment politicians at the expense of everyone else.

For many small towns, the local hospital is the largest employer and for those communities the crisis is existential. The hospital provides most of the community's jobs, including the highest paying ones. Its payroll supports the community's grocery stores, retail shops, gas stations and other businesses. Those businesses, in turn, provide the tax base that sustains local government. In summary, the hospital's payroll is the engine that drives the local economy. If it dies, the community's economy dies with it!



Brady & Associates' business purpose remains unchanged. We will continue to use data, systems thinking, and change management techniques to help hospitals improve their organizational effectiveness as we have for more than three decades. We are expanding the scope and focus of our activities. We will work with others to develop constructive strategies, methods and structures for hospitals and communities that have been and are being damaged by the Third Party Payer System's disastrous and self-serving actions. We will serve as facilitators, helping damaged hospitals and communities move from paralysis to positive locally-controlled corrective action. Although each community will have its own unique circumstances, needs, and solutions, there are almost always options. The goal will always be to help preserve and/or restore the local primary care that is so essential for community health and economic viability.

Please visit <http://communities-at-risk.blogspot.com/> and bookmark it for future announcements.

FJB



7667 N.W. Prairie View Road, Suite 204  
Kansas City, Missouri 64151  
(816) 587-2120  
<http://bradyinc.com>