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## State plan to close building sparks worry over future of Shattuck Child Care Center in JP

Posted by Matt Rocheleau March 12, 2013 05:30 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Leaders of a daycare and early education center at the Lemuel Shattuck Hospital campus in Jamaica Plain say the state plans to shutter the building the center has called home for the past four decades.

The center offers day care and early education to about 40 children between 15 months and 6 years old.

Members of the Shattuck Child Care Center's board of directors say they have been kept in the dark for months about what the proposed closure will mean for the center. They said they have grown increasingly frustrated and worried, but hope to get some long-awaited answers at a scheduled meeting with state officials on Friday.

"The way the state is going about it is appalling," said board member Clare Reilly. "We have no real information about whether they're shutting our center and whether they're going to help us move to another daycare."

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"We don't know what to do. And that's what's so frustrating. They won't give us straight answers," she added.

Several board members, including Reilly, Sarah Griffen, Dennis Tyrell and others who asked not to be named, said they plan to continue to plead with state officials to keep the center located somewhere at the hospital campus – a cause that more than 250 of the hospital's staff have backed by signing a petition in recent weeks, according to board members.

State officials have declined to comment to the Globe for weeks. On Monday, a spokesman said state officials will not comment until after Friday's meeting.

Since it was founded 44 years ago, the child care center has been housed in the first floor of one of three buildings on the 13-acre, state-owned hospital campus, which was built in the early 1950s along Morton Street.

The nonprofit and its two dozen board members run the center independently

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At a meeting in August, the state told the board that it plans to build a new building where the center operates because of the facility's age, board members said.

State officials said the center was important to the hospital and the surrounding community and that they would help to find a new space for the center, according to board members. The state vowed it would not close the center at its current site until at least one year after a new space was found.

Board members said state officials promised to keep the board





