## **VareseNews**

## "We have to save the hospital Del Ponte": the collection of signatures starts

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Only a few months before the inauguration of the new maternal childhood centre, the worries about the future of Del Ponte are growing.

The new "POAS", the three year programming plan under discussion, seems to throw more shades than lights on the future of excellence. The Ponte del Sorriso Foundation onlus and the Aguav are sure, the parents association of the Audiovestibologia, have launched a collection of signatures.

By **20th November**, Universal Children's Day, **citizens are invited to sign for the expansion of this Hospital** that up to today, saw invested 40 million of euros for the construction of the new wing.

**"We defend the hospital of the children"** is the title of the petition launched to draw the attention of Lombardy region and politic about the maternal childhood centre.

"From the new POA, the expectation was to have an growth of the activities that finally gave a boost to what the same Region defined one of the four centres of reference in Lombardy for the care of the pediatric disease – explain **Emanuela Crivellano and Tiziana Basso Roi** – On the contrary, the proposal presented few days ago to the labour union is not maintained, but some field are reduce, as pediatric urology, an unmissable super specialization and recognised worldwide, and removed other activities of child psychologist, despite **that neuropsychiatric disorders are increasing».** 

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The situation of the service of **Audiovestibologia** still remained uncertain that requires over of an official recognition as Centre of Regional reference for the Care of deafness Rehabilitation also of suitable spaces to develop an activity of care and rehabilitation that asks for an important engagement of different professional figures, specially in the pediatric care.

«Great worry for **pediatric cardiology**, specialization needed 25 years ago and that today is at risk of disappearing because of a lack of employees: 1st November, two of the three doctors are going to retire and, at the moment, in the ward there still isn't any news of replacements: "Not to mention the historical Pediatric Cardiology", the two presidents continue, "born exactly in Del Ponte, an essential keystone in a pediatric pole that strives for the best and according to the new POA should finish in the cardiovascular ward, but its affinity is certainly in the maternal childhood. Regarding this pediatric activity, which is the only one in the whole north-west of Lombardy, that few hospitals can boast, and that does thousands and thousands of health services a year, the aim is not clear considering that it has been known since months that because of the achievement of the retirement age of some doctors, it risks to close in few weeks».

Never-ending fears of this decade of building projects seem to materialize: «The project of a maternal childish pole in Varese dates back to more than 30 years ago, it started in 2000, to be realized in 2007 thanks to fundings and to the start of works for a new structure. Now we are near the end of 2016, are we have spend many years between bureaucracy and delays and about 40 million of euros have been spent, and they risk to vanish. The new structure has been ready for months but there is still no clarity about the project and time, on the necessary pediatric employees, neither about its conclusion (third phase) of restructure. On the contrary we are present at a moving back. No sign of development that creates lot of worries and makes wonder about which is the political project on the childish maternal pole».

A petition is making clear requests to the President Moroni and to the regional sanitary top brasses: «It is necessary to collect a lot of signatures and we invite all the people that cares about the health of children to help us to spread the initiative. On the link http://www.ilpontedelsorriso.com/petizione-ospedale/ you can find all the necessary information to help us spread the project. It is possible to download the PDF of the signature paper in order to let friends and relatives sign. For further information call 0332 286946 or 3475105139.

The petition expires 20th November, Universal Children's Day. The right to the health is a primary right of any children».

di Redazione Translated by Garmi Mane Maguette, Dalila Mogavero (Reviewed by Prof. Robert Clarke)