

## State board to recommend HUMC North decision on Nov. 29

Wednesday, November 9, 2011

BY JASON BRAFF  
MANAGING EDITOR  
Pascack Valley Community Life

The State Health Planning Board is expected to make a recommendation to the state health commissioner as to whether or not a new 128-bed acute care facility should open at the old Pascack Valley Hospital at a public meeting on Nov. 29.

The board will hear public comment prior to making the recommendation that evening on whether or not to approve a certificate of need to Hackensack University Medical Center (HUMC) to reopen the Westwood facility as HUMC North.

The meeting was originally scheduled for Nov. 3 but was postponed because a quorum could not be reached, according to reports.

The Nov. 29 meeting will be held in East Windsor at the Holiday Inn National Conference Center, located at 399 Monmouth St., at 9:30 a.m.

On Oct. 19 the board held its first public hearing for HUMC's certificate of need application. Board member Cathy Ainora and Acting Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Health and Senior Services William Conroy heard two hours of testimony from local political leaders, residents, physicians and emergency personnel.

The public comments were overwhelmingly in support of reopening the Westwood facility as a hospital.

Representatives from Ridgewood's Valley Hospital and Englewood Hospital and Medical Center were the only members of the public to comment in opposition of a new hospital at the hearing, which was held in the Township of Washington, three miles from the proposed HUMC North at Pascack Valley.

The two hospitals have been outspoken in its insistence that the area does not need a new hospital, and argues the opening of HUMC North at Pascack Valley would hurt other area hospitals.

When the board makes its recommendation, as it is expected to do on Nov. 29, State Health Commissioner Mary O'Dowd will have 120 days to make a final decision.

Email: [braffj@northjersey.com](mailto:braffj@northjersey.com)

---

Find this article at:

[http://www.northjersey.com/news/bergen/133592193\\_Recommendation\\_on\\_hospital\\_expected\\_on\\_Nov\\_\\_29.html](http://www.northjersey.com/news/bergen/133592193_Recommendation_on_hospital_expected_on_Nov__29.html)

**The Record** - 150 River Street - Hackensack, NJ 07601