



STATE OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Corning Tower The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza Albany, New York 12237

Richard F. Daines, M.D.
Commissioner

Wendy E. Saunders
Executive Deputy Commissioner

November 17, 2008

Dominick Stanzione
Interim Chief Executive Officer
Long Island College Hospital
339 Hicks St.
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Mr. Stanzione:

After careful review of all of the facts the Department has determined that Long Island College Hospital's (LICH) plan for the closure of obstetrics, neonatal and pediatric services is not acceptable at this time.

Currently, there is insufficient capacity in the hospitals immediately around LICH and in much of Brooklyn to clearly demonstrate that women will have appropriate access to obstetrical and maternity care if LICH closes these services. Until there is greater clarity on this issue the Department believes it is in the best interest of public health that obstetrical and neonatal services be retained at LICH. Furthermore, pediatrics must also be maintained given its inextricable linkage with obstetrics.

Originally, we understood that you have committed to retaining school based health programs through the 2008 – 09 school year. The Department only recently learned that your position has changed and are now proposing to close December 31, 2008. At this time, we cannot approve the closure of these clinics. We encourage you to work with the Department's Division of Family Health to find a suitable sponsor for these clinics.

The Department has been working closely with our partners at the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) to understand the financial realities at LICH. The Department and DASNY recognize the financial strain that LICH is under and are committed to working with LICH, Continuum Health Partners, the local elected officials, local physicians and the community to turn LICH into a financially viable hospital. We are prepared to immediately begin working with LICH and its community to develop a plan that protects essential services and returns the hospital to fiscal health.

As part of this commitment we are notifying DASNY that the Department approves the LICH request for a \$3 million loan from the health care restructuring pool. This is only a first step in stabilizing LICH. To be successful in this endeavor, a collaboration of federal, state and city assistance and resources may be necessary to rebuild LICH into a stable and successful community provider.

Sincerely

James W. Clyne, Jr.
Deputy Commissioner
Office of Health Systems Management

Cc: Ms. Wendy Saunders
Mr. Joseph Baker
Mr. Claudia Hutton
Ms. Patsy Jones/Mr. Jeff Spitz
Ms. Susan Berry
Mr. Neil Benjamin
Mr. James Clancy