



Wednesday, April 03, 2013

LICH Docs Launch Fight

Doctors at Long Island College Hospital decided to file a legal action to keep the hospital open (Pulse, April 2) once it became clear that SUNY Downstate officials were beginning a shutdown of services, according to court documents. Dr. John Romanelli, immediate past president of the LICH medical staff and a board member of Concerned Physicians of LICH, the entity that retained legal counsel to fight the closure, wrote in a court document on March 29 that SUNY was taking steps to close LICH even though the state Department of Health has not yet approved a closure plan. On March 26, for example, Medical Director Dr. David Wlody told him that no surgeries should be scheduled at LICH after April 30. SUNY Downstate also was "allowing the services and facilities at LICH to deteriorate in anticipation of the requested closure being approved," an action that triggers a death spiral for hospitals. A maintenance contract for electrophysiology equipment expired and was not renegotiated, for example, and the machinery remained broken for days.