

## **Friday's letters: Upstate-Community deal, Mideast, Cicero assessments, Anthony Weiner, more**

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**By Readers' Page**

### **Upstate's acquisition of Community a beginning**

To the Editor:

Today, a committee of the newly-appointed New York State Public Health and Health Planning Council is scheduled to act on the Certificate of Need application of Upstate University Hospital to acquire Community General Hospital, thus bringing a major development in local health care delivery one step closer to fruition.

PHHPC is expected to approve the project with a condition that Upstate participate in a future-oriented planning process with Central New York Health Systems Agency to focus on issues related to the Community General acquisition and its impact on service delivery and access to care.

There is clearly an urgency to complete the acquisition to assure continuation of vital hospital services and retention of a strong and experienced health care work force. Longer-term issues to be addressed in the process include:

- Finalization of the project's service integration model,
- Mix and distribution of beds and services in the new two-campus configuration,
- Opportunities to enhance regional teaching, clinical service and patient care roles
- System of care implications of the proposed Upstate-Van Duyn affiliation

CNYHSA looks forward to working with Upstate and others in the community on these topics to meet the overall goal of a highly responsive, efficient and high quality health care system in Central New York. Officials, board members and employees of both institutions are to be commended for their diligence in this challenging effort.

Timothy Bobo  
Executive Director  
Central New York Health Systems  
East Syracuse