

1377

Brackbill, Robert

From: Kristina Rugh [KRUGH@co.westmoreland.pa.us]
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2013 4:02 PM
To: Brackbill, Robert
Subject: Public Comment Letter regarding West Penn Allegheny Health System and Highmark
Attachments: 2013-0419 PID letter re WPAHS Highmark 201304191515.pdf



Kristina A. Rugh, Administrative Aide

Westmoreland County Commissioner R. Tyler Courtney
krugh@co.westmoreland.pa.us

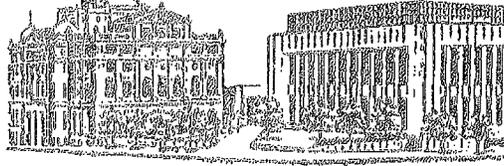
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Westmoreland County Pennsylvania



R. Tyler Courtney
County Commissioner

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April 19, 2013

Robert Brackbill
Chief, Company Licensing Division
Pennsylvania Insurance Dept
1345 Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Mr. Brackbill:

Based on the recent release of the consultant reports evaluating the acquisition of the West Penn Allegheny Health System (WPAHS) by Highmark and the Pennsylvania Insurance Department's (PID) decision to expedite the comment period, it appears that it is the intention of the (PID) to approve this acquisition by April 30th, 2013.

The ability to have more choices and enhance the competitive free market system will certainly be a benefit to the greater portion of Southwestern Pennsylvania. The concern that my office has is that the impact to our largest employer and the partner of our newly established wellness initiative, Excela Health Care System, may be severely impacted. As the report clearly points out, there needs to be a significant increase in patients utilizing the WPAHS. Although the report indicates the intention that these patients come from UPMC, it would be naïve to assume Excela and other community hospitals would not be affected.

Excela is strategically located to serve the majority of the needs for our county. There has been a strenuous relationship between all the parties in the past with each aggressively vying for doctors and patients. My hopes are that this will be taken into account and addressed by the PID. The quality of care to my constituents and ease of access when it is needed is critical.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Tyler Courtney", written over a horizontal line.

R. Tyler Courtney
Westmoreland County Commissioner

Cc: Governor Tom Corbett