

## **Advisory Board Approves Prime Sale with Protections for Nurses, Patients**

**Commissioner of Health to make final determination in the coming weeks**

Over the last several months, Nurses spoke up to protect employees and critical health care services at Salem Hospital throughout this sale. After the NJ Department of Health (NJ DOH) heard comments from the community on January 18<sup>th</sup> in Salem, NJ DOH staff presented recommendations to place conditions on the sale that protect nurses, patients, and community members as Prime Foundation takes over as the owner of Salem Hospital. The State Health Planning Board, an advisory panel to the Commissioner of Health, voted to approve these recommendations on February 2nd.

### **What Are the Conditions Prime Will Be Required to Follow?**

The proposed recommendations will require Prime to:

- Operate Salem Hospital as a general hospital for at least 5 years
- Continue all clinical services, with any changes requiring written approval from the Department
- Retain substantially all current employees at the hospital
- Post Audited Financial Statements for the public and hold public meetings for the community to review finances and present their needs and concerns
- Designate an Advisory Board to monitor clinical issues including compliance with Department licensing requirements related to staffing ratios and overtime, insurance participation, and policies related to out-of-network-charges.
- Submit annual reports for 5 years detailing financial information including investments, transfer of funds, financial data, and capital projects
- Report to the Department every six months the hospital's charity care numbers for one year
- Offer employees "health insurance coverage at substantially equivalent levels, terms and conditions to those that were offered to the employees prior to the transfer"

### **What Happens Next?**

- The State Health Planning Board will send these recommendations to the NJ Commissioner of Health, who has 120 days to vote on final approval of this transaction. This is a positive first step to hold Prime accountable for providing critical health care services, financial transparency, and access to the community.
- We are waiting for information from CHS that your negotiating committee requested as part of the bargaining process. We made the request because CHS has made proposals that take away your rights as Union nurses. When we receive the information, your negotiating committee will decide what our next steps will be.
- When the sale of the hospital is final and Prime is the new owner, by law they will have to recognize your Union.

**Join us on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Super 8 in Pennsville (413 N Broadway, Pennsville, NJ 08070) at 8am, 5pm or 8pm to learn more and find out how you can help build your union.**