

WCMH delays releasing results of Purdue study

Written by

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In an email communication, Melissa Richardson, Director of Public Relations and Marketing for Washington County Memorial Hospital (WCMH) informed local media outlets that the long awaited results of the Purdue University Healthcare Technical Assistance Program (HTAP) study must be reviewed by attorneys for both WCMH and Saint Vincent Health prior to being released for public scrutiny. WCMH and Saint Vincent Health are currently in negotiations, attempting to hammer out details of an affiliation agreement. The report was presented to representatives of WCMH, the Washington County Economic Growth Partnership and some elected officials on Friday, February 6.

The aforementioned email reads as follows:

Per Drew Wright, hospital attorney, this was his statement:

The Purdue TAP Report has been reviewed in summary form with the parties to the agreement, which are the Washington County Memorial Hospital and the Washington County Economic Growth Partnership, Inc. The report has also been reviewed in summary form with hospital staff and various county and city officials.

The actual detailed report itself is being reviewed by legal counsel for the hospital and for St. Vincent Health for the purpose of determining whether there is any confidential information or privileged information contained in the detailed report.

Once this review has been completed, a joint press release will be issued by the hospital and the Growth Partnership with that part of the detailed report which can be released. It is anticipated that this review will be completed by March 6, 2009.

The HTAP process began in August of 2008 at a cost of \$50,000 paid by The Salem Urban Enterprise Zone. HTAP works with hospitals and other healthcare providers across the state of Indiana to facilitate improvements in patient care and efficiency of operation. For additional information on the work done the Purdue program visit its website at <http://www.purdue.edu/dp/rche/htap/index.php>.