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Tri-Cities

## North Oakland Medical Center re-opens with funding from state departments

by [Erica Finley](#) | [Oakland Business Review](#)

Monday November 03, 2008, 3:07 PM



Photo courtesy of North Oakland Medical Center

A sale of the North Oakland Medical Center to the Oakland Physicians Medical Center is again a possibility, according to interim President and CEO/CFO Mike DeRubeis.

Less than a week ago, North Oakland Medical Center employees said their goodbyes as the hospital closed its doors on almost 100 years of service to the residents of northern Oakland County.

Today, the hospital announced a reprieve of sorts, thanks to support from the Michigan Department of Community Health, the Michigan Department of Treasury and the City of Pontiac.

The funding from these groups, to the tune of \$2 million for the next three months, will ideally make a sale to the Oakland Physicians Medical Center a possibility, said interim President and CEO/CFO Mike DeRubeis.

"We could potentially get approval from a federal bankruptcy judge to get a sale this week," DeRubeis said.

As part of the deal, North Oakland had to demonstrate the ability to re-open at full service, which it did officially at noon Saturday. The hospital currently has nine patients in house, and has seen a steady flow of emergency room patients, DeRubeis said.

All operations have gone smoothly, and the hospital expects to start seeing surgery patients Wednesday, he said.

As many as 800 staffers were poised to lose their jobs last week, but DeRubeis said the hospital currently has the appropriate level of staffing needed to run each department, and they will be calling others back as the volume of patients dictates.

He said the hospital experienced an emotional "mourning period" last week when it was announced the center would be closing its doors.

"It's an incredible turn of events for people who have spent much of their adult working life here," he said.

"We've got a lot of people who are holding their breath that this will actually mean that we will, in fact, be able to stay open."

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Oakland Physicians Medical Center, which agreed to buy the failing hospital earlier this year, was unable to raise enough capital for the project due to the latest credit crunch and a sluggish state and national economy, it was announced last week.

North Oakland Medical Center's decline can be attributed, in part, to providing medical care to patients who couldn't afford to pay, putting the hospital in debt up to \$100 million, and preventing it from updating its medical technology for procedures that produce revenue.

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Posted by [rmac99](#) on 11/04/08 at 7:54PM

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