

BMC buyer is aiming for a Jan. 19 wrap-up

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IJKG LLC, the prospective purchaser of Bayonne Medical Center, is now projecting it will conclude the transaction by Jan. 19 — assuming that state regulatory agencies favorably complete their review of the deal by then.

That's what Adam Rogoff, co-counsel to the debtor hospital, told U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Morris Stern, sitting in federal court in Newark yesterday, as the court held the latest in a series of hearings on BMC's path to survival.

BMC takes the next step on that path at 7:15 p.m. tomorrow when the state Attorney Gener-

al's Office conducts a mandated public hearing in the Dorothy E. Harrington City Council chambers at Bayonne City Hall to determine whether the sale complies with the terms of the state's Community Health Care Assets Protection Act (CHAPA).

The public is invited to comment on whether they feel the buyer — who has promised to continue running the hospi-

tal as an "acute care facility" — will be complying with the provisions of the legislation by "maintaining access to the population of Bayonne and nearby communities, including indigent patients."

As part of the CHAPA review process, the buyer must also win approval of the state Chancery Court, represented in Hudson County by state Super-

ior Court Judge Maurice J. Galipoli, who is expected to conduct a hearing on the issue Jan. 14 and issue a ruling on Jan. 18.

Meanwhile, the State Health Planning Board is tentatively slated to hold a separate hearing Jan. 3 in Trenton on IJKG's application for a certificate of need, which is required for any change of ownership.