

**From:** [Jane Brust](#)  
**To:** [Constantino, Mike](#); [Simmons, April R.](#)  
**Subject:** [External] Public Comment for E-025-22 - West Suburban Medical Center OPCO E-025-22  
**Date:** Thursday, March 31, 2022 12:46:16 PM

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The comment below was emailed to you March 29.

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**From:** Paul Luning  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 29, 2022 7:33 PM  
**To:** 'Mike.Constantino@Illinois.gov' <Mike.Constantino@Illinois.gov>; 'April.Simmons@Illinois.gov' <April.Simmons@Illinois.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment for E-025-22 - West Suburban Medical Center OPCO E-025-22

Ms. Simmons and Mr. Constantino:

I submit this public comment attesting to the critical value of West Suburban Medical Center to the community it has served for over 100 years. I am a family physician on staff at West Suburban, currently serving as the Vice President of the medical staff. I came to West Suburban for my residency training 27 years ago, specifically because of its commitment to and excellence in training doctors to care for underserved populations. After finishing residency I joined PCC Community Wellness Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center, where I am now the Chief Medical Officer. Although our community health center has had relationships with multiple hospitals, our partnership with West Suburban remains the most productive in caring for the underserved community on the West Side of Chicago. This neighborhood has been hurt by the closing of two of its hospitals over the last several decades, making West Suburban an even more important source of high-quality and accessible care for communities such as Austin and Belmont Cragin. The hospital needs to continue to serve this function for another century. Through the committed and loyal physicians (many of whom, like myself, stayed on for decades after training there); and a dedicated and competent staff and administration, which has made significant improvements in the last year (despite the COVID pandemic); West Suburban can continue to serve as an essential service provider for this community. I am hopeful that a new owner, based in and focused on Chicago, will continue to improve the care our hospital can provide.

Sincerely,  
Paul Luning, MD, MPH  
Chief Medical Officer  
PCC Community Wellness Center

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