Horton Hospital open despite financial struggles

(KAIR)--The Horton Community Hospital remains open, despite concerns that the cash-strapped operation <u>could close</u> by the end of the current week.

According to a letter addressed to the staff of the hospital, from <u>iHealthcare</u>, <u>Inc</u>, efforts are underway to "rebuild [the] hospital."

According to the letter from iHealthcare COO David Bingaman, the company was "engaged on February 6 to manage the hospital with the goal of averting its closure" due to the hospital being in "financial peril for sometime."

The letter says it's the belief of iHealthcare that if they had been enlisted sooner, the hospital "would already be on the road to recovery."

The hospital has been suffering <u>financial woes</u>, including the inability to pay employees.

The letter explains the situation, saying "the limited cash flow coupled with the long wait for cost-reporting reimbursements has only been exacerbated by the loans that were secured in order to keep the facilities open. The failure to make payments on these loans led to the creditors securing a court order to freeze on all of the hospitals' bank accounts. This led to an inability for all the hospitals to make payroll, beyond satisfying any of their other obligations."

The letter adds that iHealthcare recognizes "that anything short of getting payroll current offers little comfort to the employees who are suffering. However, iHealthcare is in preparation to making the sweeping changes, in very short order," and believes "that these changes will give the best chance to bring the hospital back into operation in a way that is sustainable for patients and [the staff's] careers."

The letter closes by saying iHealthcare hopes "to have material news to share by next week if not this weekend."

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