
Good Afternoon,

You may have heard a rumor that VA Hudson Valley is preparing to close Castle Point. There is no truth to this rumor. **Castle Point Medical Center is NOT closing.** Please read the background and detailed information below to learn more.

BACKGROUND:

On March 14th, The Department of Veterans Affairs released its Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) report, which includes recommendations by the VA Secretary. The recommendations within this report are the result of years of research and analysis studying VA's health care system and the Veteran population. In short, these recommendations represent a massive investment that will make VA stronger—and fortify our ability to deliver the timely, world-class health care that Veterans so rightly deserve.

- General information about VA's recommendations and the AIR Commission can be found [HERE](#).
- VA Hudson Valley Health Care System's specific recommendations can be found in the attached document starting on page 56 and [HERE](#).

OVERVIEW OF VA'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CASTLE POINT MEDICAL CENTER:

- **Recommendation 7.1:** Establish a new site in Fishkill, NY.
 - The new site will be centrally located to the Veteran population and will be able to address current and future outpatient demand for the Hudson Valley Region, while eliminating operating and maintenance costs at the Castle Point VA Medical Center (VAMC).
 - The Castle Point VAMC was built in 1923. The current infrastructure and layout do not meet modern health care standards, and the existing facility requires significant capital investment.
 - Facility Condition Assessment (FCA) deficiencies total approximately \$115.5M. This means the VA estimates it would cost \$115.5M to correct the physical deficiencies and bring the facilities at Castle Point to a minimum standard. The cost to modernize the facilities is not included in this estimate.
 - Annual operations and maintenance costs at Castle Point total an estimated \$7.6M.
- **Recommendation 6.3:** Following the realignment of services, the current Castle Point VAMC will be closed.
 - All recommendations must continue through multiple stages of review, and if they remain unchanged, the planning and implementation of the recommendations will take several years.
 - VA has not instructed VA Hudson Valley to close the Castle Point VAMC. As stated above, we will not discontinue providing Veterans with the services they earned until we can offer them care at another convenient location.
 - Additional information about the realignment of services can be found in the attached report.

As a Veteran and VA employee, it makes me happy to know VA is making significant efforts to modernize our facilities and realign our services to best support our Veterans' future needs. I grew

up a few miles from Castle Point and now live even closer. I can remember being weeks home from Afghanistan and visiting the medical center for my first time as a Veteran. I have a strong connection with Castle Point, our community, and the Hudson Valley, but nothing is more substantial than my bond with the women and men who served before me, after me, and continue to serve.

Our Veterans were there when our nation needed them, and although we can never repay them, we must make every effort to be there when they need us. That's what these recommendations aim to do— provide our Veterans with the highest quality health care possible.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions, and please help me correct this rumor when you hear it. lea

Thank you,

Cullen

CULLEN LYONS

Public Affairs Officer

VA Hudson Valley HCS

(845) 831-2000 ext. 215234

