

Intro:

I am Henry Unger and I represent Cary Urology.

I want to thank the members of the SHCC for donating their time. As a member of the North Carolina Medical Care Commission for over ten years, I personally know how important this work is and how time consuming it can be. Our goal is to improve the health of our citizens and constantly improve its delivery. Our task is made easier by the very competent, dedicated staff, whose insight I have come to appreciate and respect.

On August 1, we will submit a revised proposal for a multidisciplinary prostate cancer demonstration project in Service Area 20 incorporating a linear accelerator. This proposal will incorporate staff recommendations not in our original proposal. Other entities in our area claim to have a multidisciplinary approach. Even a superficial look at these exposes them as mere shell games. The current delivery system is not doing a credible job at lowering the prostate cancer death rate. We think it is time to try a different approach. On the national level, dedicated prostate cancer centers are having uniform better outcomes, including lower complication. As a

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practicing Urologist, I can attest that we are reluctant to refer prostate patients to Radiation Oncology for primary therapy. We live with their complications – and it is not pretty.

We are currently in consultation with a nationally recognized epidemiologist to develop metrics to prove we can do it here, if given the chance.

African American men have a higher incidence of prostate cancer, contract it earlier and it tends to be more aggressive. Cary Urology, for over twenty five (25) years has done outreach programs to the African American community. We intend to have a very aggressive screening program for this at risk community.

Please fairly evaluate our proposal. You will come to the conclusion that it is reasonable, it is doable and it has merit. The state is doing a poor job in lowering the prostate cancer deaths and its morbidity. I am ashamed to admit, the Service Areas I practice in has one of the worst results. I know we can and must do better.