

**Comments on Presentation of Special Needs Petition for Shared Fixed Cardiac
Catheterization Laboratory,
Iredell County,
Proposed 2012 State Medical Facilities Plan
Raleigh, August 1, 2011
Dave Grogan**

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Medical Facilities
PLANNING SECTION

Thank you. Good afternoon, my name is Dave Grogan. I am Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Iredell Memorial Hospital and have been a board member of this critical non-profit health care provider for 11 years. I have retired after years of executive leadership with Toter, Inc., an international company that produces the world's toughest trash carts.

As you can imagine, I am not well versed in the complexity of Certificate of Need and North Carolina Health Planning. Ed Rush and Dr. Georgeson are the experts in those fields. However, I do understand a good value proposition and I am very familiar with the importance of the cardiac catheterization program at Iredell Memorial Hospital to the people in communities in and around Iredell County. My fellow 14 board members, all who live in Iredell County, understand it as well. I speak for myself and for them today.

People in our service communities depend on Iredell Memorial. Many of them need generous charity programs to insure that they get the care they need. As the only non-profit hospital in the county, Iredell Memorial takes care of them regardless of ability to pay. To sustain this, the board is selective and focused with investments. We have seen that Iredell County mortality rates from heart disease are 13 percent higher than the state average²; and heart disease is the second highest cause of death. Consequently,

² NC Center for Health Statistics (2005-2009 Ten Leading Causes of Death by County of Residence and Age Group: Ranking, Number of Deaths, and Unadjusted Death Rates per 100,000 Population- All Ages: NC 192.2 and Iredell 216.7; <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/databook/> downloaded July 12, 2011.)

our commitment to the heart program is full spectrum, from primary and preventive care to acute intervention and back to rehabilitation. Iredell Memorial funds the local community health center and it has the only certified cardiac rehabilitation and diabetes programs in the county. I personally believe that our rehabilitation and diabetes programs are second to none in the state.

Virtually every member of our Board of Trustees personally knows someone who has benefited from Iredell Memorial's comprehensive cardiac program. I cannot overstate just how important it is to have this service in the community. With Iredell Memorial's cardiac catheterization program, patients and their families who are affected by this disease can stay in Iredell County and get superior care. The Board is extremely proud of the success and exceptional quality of this program.

The Board and management have addressed the challenges of the current financial times by acting prudently, controlling operating costs, being frugal with capital investments, making them only when we are assured that the investment will improve quality and safety in patient care. The solution that we are proposing to increase capacity in our cardiac catheterization program by using existing equipment passes these tests. With your approval to recognize our need in the 2012 Plan, we can meet the needs of our communities with no capital expenditure. To our Board, this proposal makes all of the sense in the world. It fits our mission:

- To support our community's journey toward optimal health, to provide an excellent experience for our patients and their families, and to deliver high quality, affordable health services.

I have made the special trip today to support this petition, because the cardiac catheterization at Iredell Memorial is so important to me and to the community. The care is excellent and I cannot emphasize enough how important it is for people to be able to stay at home to get it. We need more capacity to serve them.

Please give us the option to use our existing resources economically to let more people stay in the community for their cardiac care.

Thank you for your time and attention. I urge you to support this petition and to let us move on with using the EP/ angio laboratory for cardiac catheterizations as soon as possible. I too am open to questions.

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