

Presentation of Special Needs Petition for Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory

Carteret County

Proposed 2013 State Medical Facilities Plan

Raleigh, August 1, 2012

Introduction

Thank you. Good afternoon, my name is Ginger Parker. I am a member of the Board of Trustees of Carteret General Hospital. I am a long time resident and business owner in Carteret County.

Request

I am here to ask members of the State Health Coordinating Council to modify Chapter 9 of the Proposed *2013 State Medical Facilities Plan (2013 Plan)* to include a **special need for one shared fixed cardiac catheterization laboratory in Carteret County.**

Reason

It is a long drive from Carteret County to Raleigh, and many of our residents make this drive to get cardiac catheterization services. Physicians, hospitals and staff in Raleigh are excellent. They are also excellent in Greenville (another four-hour drive) and in New Bern, a one- to two-hour drive. But the drives are long, expensive and taxing, especially if they involve several additional trips for follow up care. Our Board and leadership believe it is time to make this a local service.

Diagnostic cardiac catheterization is largely an outpatient service, which means that families are committed to one- to two-day trips out of town to support the person who is getting the procedure.

I understand that the techniques are complex and require highly trained staff and expensive equipment. Our Board is very attentive to these facts and history shows that we initiate services slowly, carefully, when we are ready and at the lowest possible cost to the hospital, and ultimately to the consumer. The time is right to start this service.

- So many procedures are going out of town that it will take only a small market share to support a shared fixed laboratory.
- Carteret General has an angiography laboratory and will soon need to replace it. That equipment can do cardiac catheterization.
- We have, in town and on our medical staff, four cardiologists, three of whom are trained, experienced and currently do cardiac catheterization procedures at another institution. Those three have an office very near the hospital and agree with our request.
- We have a culture of quality and safety. We would do this at the highest level of both.
- We deny care to no one in need and our statistics reflect our high level of accessibility.

Please approve this petition. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.