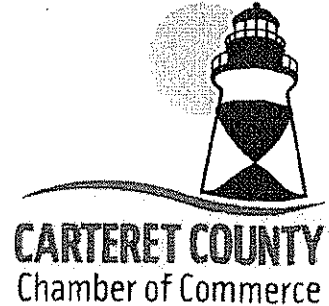


**RECEIVED**

By K Fisk at 3:35 pm, Aug 16, 2012

August 14, 2012

Nadine Pfeiffer, Chief  
Planning Section  
Division of Facility Services  
801 Ruggles Drive  
2714 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2714



RE: Carteret General Hospital Petition for Shared Fixed Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory, Carteret County and Johnston Memorial Hospital Petition for Temporary Rule to Permit Interventional Catheterization in Cardiac Catheterization Laboratories without Open Heart Surgery

We are writing to express the unanimous support of the Executive Committee of the Carteret County Chamber of Commerce for the request from Carteret General Hospital to obtain approval for an adjusted need determination for a shared fixed cardiac catheterization laboratory in Carteret County for the *2013 State Medical Facilities Plan*.

Carteret County and the Crystal Coast form an attractive location for second home owners and active seniors who choose to move here during their retirement years. The appeal of our coastal amenities adds to the quality of life that older adults are seeking in the "Golden Years." Because of these demographics, access to top-quality health care is a paramount concern. The prevalence of heart disease among older Americans is a consideration that we believe warrants careful evaluation of the statistics that are documented in the hospital's petition.

Hence, we believe it is prudent and timely to allow the county to develop a cardiac catheterization program. We have every confidence that this would be done with careful thought and good planning.

The performance record of Carteret General with regard to superb quality is validated in its petition. Cardiac catheterization would have the same level of attention.

We encourage you to endorse and approve the petitions from both Carteret General Hospital and Johnston Memorial Hospital to include a special need for a shared fixed cardiac catheterization unit in Carteret County and address the temporary rule to permit cardiac catheterization laboratories that meet the AHA guidelines to offer both therapeutic and diagnostic catheterizations.

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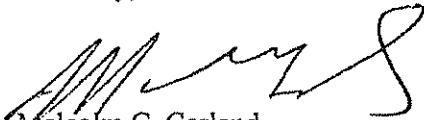
(252) 726-6350 • (800) 622-6278 • Fax (252) 726-3505

www.nccoastchamber.com • cart.coc@nccoastchamber.com

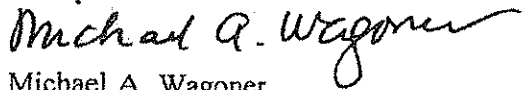
Carteret General's access to a cardiac catheterization laboratory would complement, not replace, the cardiology services of CarolinaEast Medical Center.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Malcolm C. Garland  
Chair, Board of Directors



Michael A. Wagoner  
President