

## Iredell Petition Outline

July 20, 2021

### I. Josh

- A. Thank you for taking the time to listen to our petition regarding our Cath Lab for Iredell County today.
- B. Introduction: Vice President for Operations
  - IMH for three years,
  - Here via South Carolina where I had worked with Community Health System for 12 years
- C. Iredell Health System
  - Iredell Health System was created in 1952 and is the only non-profit health system in Iredell County
  - Our mission was, and is, to improve the health and wellness of the citizens of Iredell County as well as surrounding counties.
  - In order to work toward that mission, we are constantly looking for services that are not currently, but potentially, can be offered in our community so that residents can be treated locally and not potentially be limited in treatment by accessibility or travel challenges.
  - Being an independent, locally owned and operated hospital, all of our revenue stays in the community to continue to expand and grow what can be offered here.
- D. Here today to request too expand our cardiac cath program and give us more flexibility by granting permission to use an existing vascular lab as a **shared fixed cath lab**
  - Currently Iredell Health has one Cath Lab and One Vascular Lab
  - State Medical Facilities Plan recognizes two kinds of cath labs: full cath and shared – a shared lab does both cath and vascular procedures
  - IMH cardiac cath program demand is now bigger than one cath lab alone can support, but not likely to reach two full cath labs in the near term
  - Currently plan has provisions for communities with no cath lab to procure a shared lab, but no mechanism for a community hospital program to grow gradually
  - This spring under COVID Executive Order 139, Iredell Health was granted permission to use our vascular lab to do cath procedures
  - As a result we learned from the COVID Emergency exemption that we can serve patients and physicians by offering better scheduling hours, better retention of staff, more efficient use of current equipment, all while saving money. This was all accomplished with permission to use an existing vascular lab to do scheduled cardiac cath
  - Asked for this once before in 2011, and was denied because trend in Iredell Memorial cath volume was down; no longer the case; program has substantial

growth since 2018 interrupted by COVID, expect use rate to be fully restored by Q4 2021

- E. According to 2021 County Health Rankings, Iredell residents overall are healthy, but a significant segment of people served by IMH are not <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/north-carolina/2021/rankings/iredell/county/outcomes/overall/snapshot>
- Above average for the State in Smoking, Obesity and Excessive drinking all of which have a high correlation with cardiac disease.
- F. In response to this chronic pattern, Iredell Health built a strong, cardiac program,
- Hospital staffing investment for diagnostics alone exceeds \$1.5 million a year,
  - Have Joint Commission and Society for Patient Care accreditation
  - Physician complement
    - a) 7 cardiologists, 5 employed soon to be 8 with the addition of 1 more cardiologist at the end of August. All are board certified cardiologists, work in our cath lab
    - b) Iredell Health System has cardiology clinics in Statesville Mooresville and Taylorsville.
  - Busy Cardiac catheterization program, the first in North Carolina to offer interventional catheterization without an onsite open heart surgery program, and have saved numerous lives as a result of people not having to travel long distances for this service
- G. Population data shows, at average NC use rates, communities in Iredell Health acute care service area alone, with no in-migration will need in excess of 1500 weighted cath cases in the next three years.
- Iredell Memorial data shows that our patients are sicker, because, we are about to exceed that benchmark
  - 1500 weighted cardiac catheterization procedures represent capacity, according to the State Medical Facilities Plan
  - Plan methodology provides for a new cath lab when a service area reaches 1200 cases
  - Iredell Health will pass that rate this year
  - However, Plan will not grant another lab to Iredell County because two other hospitals in the county each have cath labs and both are low volume -- 270 to 405 weighted caths a year.
  - IMH and its patients need the sustained relief now, so that we do not lose the productivity and patient service when the COVID Emergency Exemption ends
  - IMH has invested considerably over the years to build a community responsive program and will continue to invest in the program for the community's needs.
  - We need SHCC help to sustain this program by allowing us to make the abilities we received under COVID executive order 139 permanent by granting us a Shared fixed Cath Lab. Having this ability will again offer better hours for our patients and

physicians, more efficient use of staffs time and will allow us to utilize equipment that is otherwise sitting idle.

- Thank you - glad to answer questions. My colleague will have better technical information about the equipment as well as our current volumes

