

T. Reginald Williams, MD
James W. Harris, Jr., MD
R. E. (Trey) Oursler, III, MD
Richard I. Chang, MD
Brian C. Adair, MD
Roderick N. Hargrove, MD, FACS
Patrick J. Kelty, MD
Gabriela R. de Boer, MD
Christopher P. Tanzie, MD, PhD
Peter M. Lipscomb, MD
Ryan J. Wise, MD
Joshua G. Paschall, MD
Jennifer Lira, MD

Corneal Service Richard I. Chang, MD

Glaucoma Service James W. Harris, Jr., MD Ryan J. Wise, MD

LASIK/Refractive Service
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Oculoplastics Service Roderick N. Hargrove, MD

Vitreo Retinal Service
T. Reginald Williams, MD
Patrick J. Kelty, MD

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Lincolnton Office 2311 East Main Street Lincolnton, NC 28092 (704) 732-3796

Boone Office 2640 Hwy 105, Suite 102 Boone, NC 28607 (828) 262-1554 June 12, 2023

John E. Young Chair, Acute Care Services Committee State Health Coordinating Council 2704 Mail Center Service Raleigh, NC 27699-2704

Dear Mr. Young:

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Sincerely,

Brian C. Adair, MD



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Lincolnton Office 2311 East Main Street Lincolnton, NC 28092 (704) 732-3796

Boone Office 2640 Hwy 105, Suite 102 Boone, NC 28607 (828) 262-1554 June 12, 2023

John E. Young Chair, Acute Care Services Committee State Health Coordinating Council 2704 Mail Center Service Raleigh, NC 27699-2704

Dear Mr. Young:

As a physician with Graystone Ophthalmology Associates, I am writing this letter in support of Graystone Eye Surgery Center's petition for an adjusted need determination for one additional operating room in Catawba County in the 2024 State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP). I perform surgery at Graystone Eye Surgery Center, so I have first-hand knowledge of the growing need for local OR access. Last year, Graystone Ophthalmology surgeons performed over 9,000 surgical cases at the ambulatory surgical facility. The Center's three operating rooms currently operate above practical capacity. An additional operating room is needed to alleviate capacity constraints and to provide more timely access for the elderly and other medically underserved residents.

Ophthalmic surgery is well utilized by individuals age 65 and older. Catawba County and the surrounding Unifour area have a large and growing elderly population. As this population continues to increase, and as employer/insurer incentives and technological advances continue to encourage patients to obtain services in the most cost-effective outpatient settings, it is evident that a growing demand for outpatient ophthalmic surgical services will persist in our community.

In past years we have petitioned the SHCC for an OR adjusted need determination and have been grateful for SHCC approval of two of our petitions. Consistent with previous Acute Care Committee encouragement, we have recently reached out to the two Catawba County hospitals to explore opportunities to better utilize their existing operating rooms. We have met with the Chief Executive Officers of both hospitals in Hickory. However, neither indicated interest in developing alternative solutions to better utilize the existing OR inventory in ways that will be more cost effective for patients.

The Proposed 2024 SMFP did not indicate a need for additional operating rooms in Catawba County, due to the inventory of underutilized hospital operating rooms. We assert that there are unique circumstances in Catawba County with regard to ophthalmic surgical utilization which substantiate additional OR capacity. I encourage the SHCC to recognize these unique circumstances so that we may continue to provide appropriate outpatient surgical access for local residents.

Sincerely,

Richard I. Chang, MD



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R. E. (Trey) Oursler, III, MD
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Brian C. Adair, MD
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