

From: [Bridget Wight](#)
To: [DHSR.SMFP.Petitions-Comments](#)
Cc: [Jason Harris](#); [Jessica Bordeaux](#); [Dana Heuser](#); [John Bardini](#)
Subject: [External] Oral Remarks – Jason Harris | July 9 Public Hearing on Proposed 2026 SMFP
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Importance: High

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Hello,

Please see remarks below:

Raleigh Radiology is requesting that the State Health Coordinating Council modifies the Proposed *2025 State Medical Facilities Plan (2025 SMFP)* to include a **special need for one additional fixed MRI scanner in Wake County.**

Talking points

- Recently, Akumin, the operator of a legacy mobile MRI that is “fixed” inside the Raleigh Radiology Blue Ridge facility, notified us they will be terminating services in November of 2025.
- The MRI scanner at Raleigh Radiology Blue Ridge served over 8,000 patients in 2024.
- These patients have come to rely on Raleigh Radiology’s consistent, cost-effective, patient centered approach to care.
- If an additional fixed MRI scanner is not approved, patient care will be disrupted. After removal of the Blue Ridge scanner, about 64% of the remaining freestanding MRIs will be operating above 80% capacity, a level which is not sustainable. Additionally, 55% of the freestanding fixed MRIs in Wake County are owned and operated by Akumin. They are susceptible to the same service disruptions facing Raleigh Radiology.
- We have been aware of the risk of Akumin operating the MRI at Blue Ridge for some time. Our first SHCC petition attempt was in 2015 when Raleigh Radiology requested an MRI need adjustment to permit replacement of fixed mobile units that reached capacity. At that time, we highlighted the vulnerability of legacy contracts. That petition was denied.
- Earlier this year, when Akumin pulled days of service at several other Raleigh Radiology locations, we continued our search for alternative options.

Unfortunately, those efforts fell short as we were told by the Agency that it cannot approve a CON to move a fixed MRI from one service area to another.

- Raleigh Radiology has filed an application for Blue Ridge in the 2025 Wake County need, but that batch is competitive, and we will not know the outcome until after the last SHCC meeting on the 2026 Plan.
- Rest assured, Raleigh Radiology has been diligent in looking at alternative options prior to approaching you with this request, and our biggest concern remains the care of our patients, neighbors, and friends in Wake County who rely on our MRI services at Blue Ridge. We will be submitting a formal petition in the required format later this month.
- I will be happy to respond to any of your questions today.

Best,
Bridget

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Executive Assistant

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11 Imaging Centers in the Triangle: Blue Ridge, Cary, Chapel Hill, Clayton, Fuquay-Varina, Holly Springs, Knightdale, Midtown, Oberlin, RR South, Wake Forest

Servicing WakeMed Hospitals, Centra Health, Wilson Medical Center, East Cooper Medical Center

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