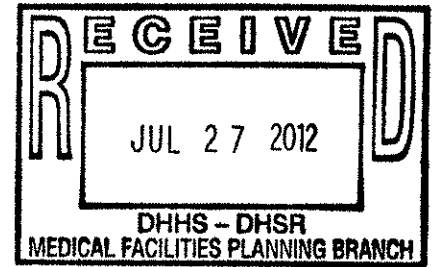


VIDANT HEALTH™



July 26, 2012

NC Department of Health & Human Services
State Health Coordinating Council
2714 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2714

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Vidant Medical Center, I would like to express our strong support for Carteret General Hospital's request to modify the Proposed 2013 State Medical Facilities Plan (2013 SMFP) to include a special need for one fixed cardiac catheterization laboratory in Carteret County. This would be a modification to Chapter 9 of the SMFP, specifically addressing the Carteret County service area.

Vidant Medical Center serves as the region's only Level 1 Trauma Center and regional referral center and is committed to working with communities and other providers to ensure that patients and families are able to receive the very best care, closest to home. It is important that those resources needed to deliver on said promise are available, in place, and supported by a skilled team which includes a regional referral center. Vidant Medical Center is also the teaching hospital for the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and our missions although separate are complimentary so that we are able to enhance the quality of life for the communities and citizens we serve. We accomplish this through partnerships like the one we enjoy with Carteret General Hospital.

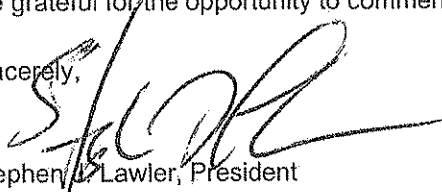
Carteret General Hospital has demonstrated their commitment to serving their community and a commitment to high quality outcomes, superb service and they have enjoyed a strong reputation over the past many years. Carteret County participates actively in a regional cardiac care program and would continue to do so for therapeutic procedures and open heart surgery and they frequently rely on Vidant Medical Center for support.

Additionally, Carteret County is a large county that enjoys a broad geography and it is in the best interest of the people of that area to have high-end diagnostic capability at this hospital, close to home. In this case, there are some communities that are an hour travel to the hospital and two or more hours from the nearest cardiac catheterization laboratory. This proposed solution would bring this important modality closer to a large and growing population of people over 45. It would permit Carteret County to build reasonable capacity in a cardiac program that is already committed to a regional network of care. Finally, this proposal would also compliment successful programs already in place, such as the cardiac rehabilitation program.

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We appreciate the opportunity to support Carteret General Hospital, both in words and in actions, and we are grateful for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Stephen J. Lawler, President
Vidant Medical Center

cc: CEO, Carteret General Hospital