



**RECEIVED**

By K Fisk at 4:14 pm, Aug 17, 2012

John Rickabaugh, M.D.  
Karen Skarda, M.D.  
Meg Dolan, PA-C  
Mary Jo O'Neal, FNP

## Sound Medical

Family Practice

3608 Medical Park Court, Morehead City, NC 28557  
Phone: 252-247-3476 • Fax: 252-247-3478

300-E Taylor Notion Road, Cape Carteret, NC 28584  
Phone: 252-354-1970 • Fax: 252-354-1968

August 17, 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

Dear Ms. Pfeiffer,

On behalf of myself and my partners at Sound Medical Family Practice, I ask that DHR Planning Staff recommend and that the State Health Coordinating Council approve the request from Carteret General Hospital for an adjusted need determination for a shared fixed cardiac catheterization laboratory in Carteret County for the *2013 State Medical Facilities Plan*.

We have two practice locations, one in Morehead City and the other in Cape Carteret. Our patients reflect the upper age spectrum of the Carteret County demographics. Heart disease is one of our top diagnoses. It is not surprising to learn that 24 percent of the county deaths are from heart disease. Cardiac and cancer deaths are the number one cause of death in Carteret County. We do an excellent job of managing care regimens for these patients, but cannot control their lives or their contributory health factors. Much of our population need and get cardiac catheterization but have to travel long distances outside Carteret County to receive that diagnostic testing. More should go but elect not to because of distance and/or unfamiliarity with those providers. Our county is 100 miles long, and much of it is rural. Depending on which part of the county you may live, it may require an hour's drive to Carteret General, two hours to the closest cath lab. Much of our community is older, city driving can be intimidating. Our largest growing population is the retirement community. Our county is older than the average NC population by 10 years.

We have five excellent cardiologists in the county. We are fortunate to have them and want to keep them. Please give us an opportunity to permit the two who are trained in cardiac catheterization to work to their the full capacity within their qualifications and training. The average primary care physician must coordinate care with more than 50 other physicians. We are no different. When those physicians are in facilities out of town, as well and their health care records on different platforms, coordinating care regimens is all the more difficult. We expect this to be even more complex as health reform brings more low-income people into insurance programs. History indicates that their care requirements will be

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The track record of Carteret General with regard to quality is well documented in their petition. Cardiac catheterization would get the same level of attention.

Please agree to the petitions from both Carteret General and Johnston Memorial Hospital. 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.

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

Thank you for your time and attention to this important need and issue. My partners or I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

  
John C. Rickabaugh, M.D.

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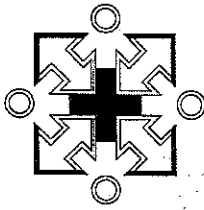
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Sincerely,

  
Margaret Dolan, PA-C

kg

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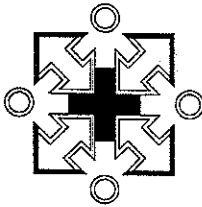
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Sincerely,

X

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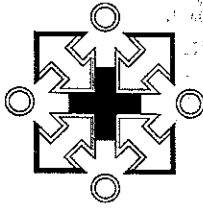
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allen H. Woodard".

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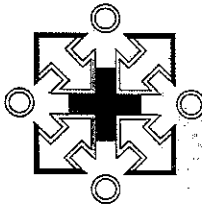
Sincerely,

*Laura Warren*

*Larry Warren*

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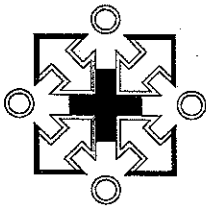
Sincerely,

Daisy A. King

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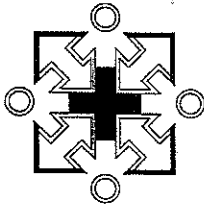
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Sincerely,

*William D. Branch*

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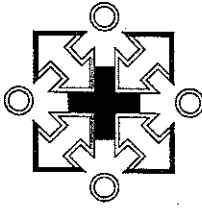
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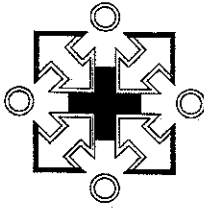
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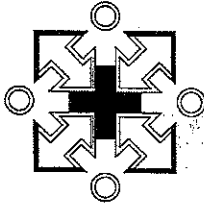
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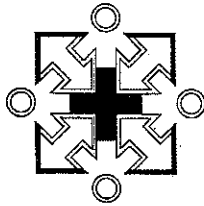
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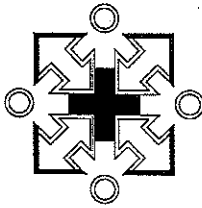
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Sincerely,

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Richard Brvenik, FACHE  
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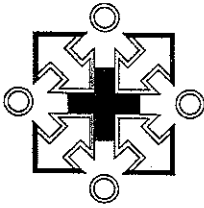
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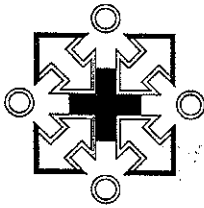
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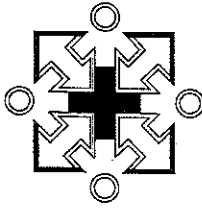
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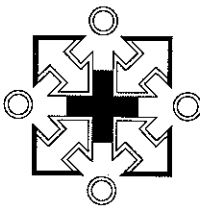
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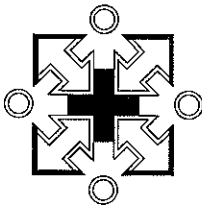
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Paul A. Ullman

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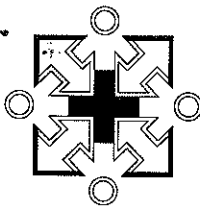
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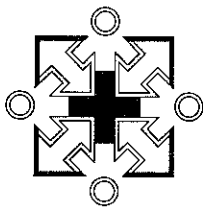
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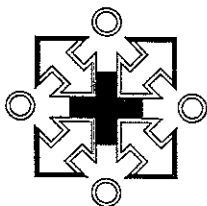
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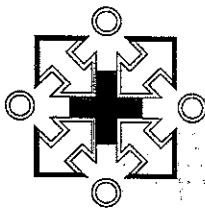
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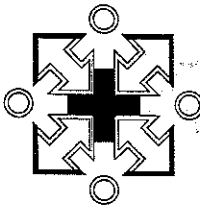
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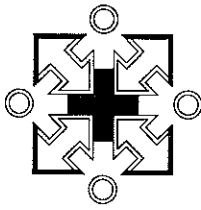
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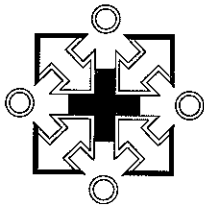
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Chairman  
Richard Brvenik, FACHE  
President

August 13, 2012

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

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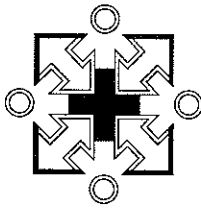
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Thank you for your time and attention. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding this important issue.

Sincerely,

Our Mission is Your Health

**Carteret  
General  
Hospital**



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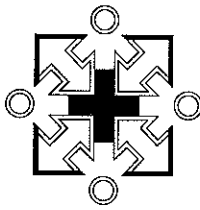
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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista R. Dow". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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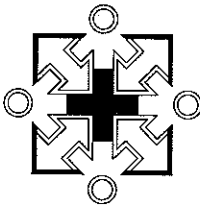
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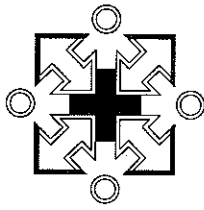
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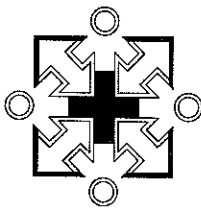
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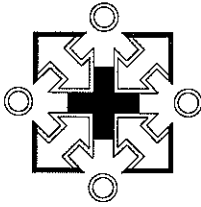
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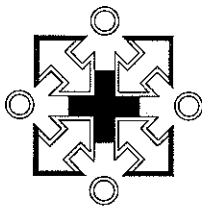
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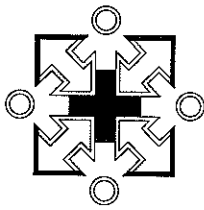
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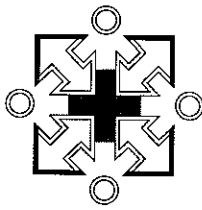
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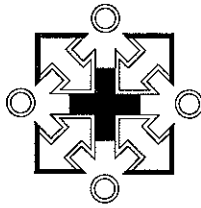
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*Dorothy Shaw*

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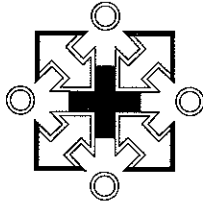
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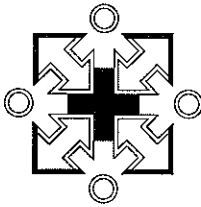
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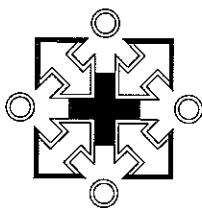
Thank you for your time and attention. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald Bradford".

Our Mission is Your Health

**Carteret  
General  
Hospital**



3500 Arendell Street – P.O. Drawer 1619 – Morehead City, NC 28557-1619  
[www.ccggh.org](http://www.ccggh.org) -- Telephone (252) 808-6000

Patrick "Pat" Joyce  
Chairman  
Richard Brvenik, FACHE  
President

August 13, 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

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We invite you to visit the Crystal Coast in any season. We hope you will come during tourist season so you may appreciate the travel hurdles faced by our rural communities. We know that heart disease is a dominant health problem here. We have seen the numbers in the hospital's petition and believe it is time to permit the county to develop a cardiac catheterization program. It would be done with careful thought and good planning.

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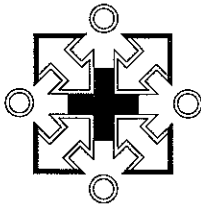
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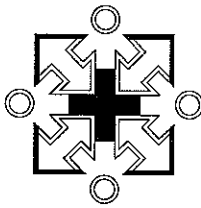
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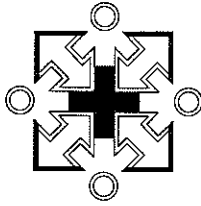
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter C. Kruse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

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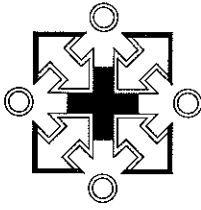
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Carteret General’s access to a cardiac catheterization laboratory would complement, not replace, the cardiology services of CarolinaEast Medical Center.

Thank you for your time and attention. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Betty C. Lane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

August 17, 2012

State Health Coordinating Council c/o  
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

Dear Ms. Pfeiffer,

As EMS Medical Director of Carteret General Hospital's Emergency Department, I regularly encounter and manage care for people with an Acute MI. Carteret General has an excellent Emergency Department medical and nursing staff. We organize quickly to transfer patients to the nearest and most appropriate care. We are part of the regional cardiac emergency response network and offer thrombolytic therapy at the hospital. Our EMS program was one of the first in the state to allow our EMS providers to perform their skills in the hospital setting.

Too often, we refer directly to the nearest cardiac catheterization laboratory, which is 34 minutes from our nearest community, Newport, and 1.5 hours from our most distant community, Sea Level. With the number of cardiac catheterizations performed on Carteret County residents exceeding 1500 annually over the past three years, it is time to have cardiac catheterization at Carteret General Hospital. We are central to the county, only 15 minutes from Newport and 43 minutes from Sea Level.

I ask that DHSR Planning Staff recommend and that the full State Health Coordinating Council approve the request from Carteret General Hospital for an adjusted need determination for a shared fixed cardiac catheterization laboratory in Carteret County for the *2013 State Medical Facilities Plan*.

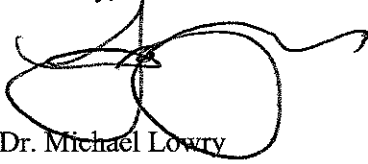
Carteret County's unique demographic requires that every week we must arrange transfers for patients who truly need cardiac catheterization to conform to EMTALA regulations and complete their diagnosis and stabilization. We arrange excellent transport and work with excellent tertiary care facilities, but the arrangement places extreme hardships on our patients and their families. The stress is unnecessary and involves risk. Carteret County has a large enough need to support a full cardiac catheterization laboratory.

The quality track record of Carteret General is well documented in its petition. Cardiac catheterization will get this same level of excellent attention.

Please agree to the petitions from both Carteret General and Johnston Memorial. Please include a special need for a shared fixed cardiac catheterization unit in Carteret County. Also, please address the temporary rule to permit cardiac catheterization laboratories that meet the AHA guidelines to offer both therapeutic and diagnostic catheterizations.

Thank you for your time and attention to this most important issue. We understand that even with approval of the petitions, it could take a year or more to obtain all of the approvals for the program. This is even more reason to act expeditiously.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Lowty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Dr. Michael Lowty  
EMS Medical Director, Emergency Department  
Carteret General Hospital