

September 18, 2009

Dear Acute Care Committee member:

As you are aware the Town of Holly Springs submitted a Petition for an adjusted bed need for Wake County in the 2010 State Medical Facilities Plan. If I may, I'd like to share a few key points with you about our petition.

Our efforts to improve access to healthcare in our community began as early as September 12, 2001 when I met with Ray Champ who was serving as CEO of Wake Med. The population in Holly Springs at that time was approximately 10,000. Subsequent discussions were held with officials at Rex Healthcare and several private sector medical office developers.

Our situation today is that we have over 22,000 residents that are served by two medical offices with five physicians. In the case of an emergency our closest ER is Wake Med Cary that is 12 miles from Holly Springs with travel times varying greatly depending on time of day. At peak travel times it can take as long as 25 minutes get to the emergency room. All other beds and ORs are located in the northern half of Wake County.

The CON application we submitted in 2008 for beds and ORs was declined in favor of Wake Med despite **over 15,000 letters of support** from the community that were submitted to us in three weeks time. However, it is important to note that the CON Agency, in its Summary of Comparative analysis stated that Holly Springs Hospital would improve access to care in southern Wake County.

Throughout this process we have remained steadfast in our belief that communities should have the opportunity for improved access to care without having to compete with each other. In our case, last year's 41 beds will be developed by Wake Med in Wake Forest for a women's center which does not negate the need for a community hospital in southern Wake County.

In regard to our Petition I would like to emphasize three key points:

1. There must be BOTH a Wake County bed need allocation and a Wake County operating room need allocation to provide us with the opportunity to partner with a healthcare provider to develop a community hospital to serve all of southern Wake County. The 2010 Plan includes a Wake County operating room need allocation. Our petition would result in a Wake County bed need allocation.
2. No other healthcare providers opposed our petition.
3. The growth rate used in the SMFP was conservative and not as high as actual population growth in southern Wake County. At this point we have strived to bring improved access to care to our community since 2001 and since the SMFP factors in time for appeals and delays in construction and forecasts true need no later than 2016, we will have been working against the clock for 15 years to address our health care needs in one of the most rapidly growing areas in the state of North Carolina.

As you may know the Agency staff recommended denial of our Petition. We would like to point out why we think the Petition should have been approved.

1. The Agency is correct that the Acute Care Bed Need Work Group will address the need for additional beds in Wake County next year. However, next year is **too late**. In addition, the Acute Care Bed Need Work Group did indicate, and Dr. Greene stated at the May SHCC meeting, that the Acute Care Committee should expect adjusted bed need determinations from markets with unique needs.
2. The Petition submitted by the Town of Holly Springs does indeed reflect the unique needs of Wake County. As discussed in our Petition, The *Proposed 2010 SMFP* Growth Factor (for statewide acute inpatient days) of 0.02% annually is lower than the actual Statewide used in our Petition (0.42%), is lower than the Health Service Area IV/HSA IV1 (2.45%), and is lower than the Wake County Acute Care Inpatient Day (3.06%) annual Growth Rates. **ANY growth rate used by the Acute Care Bed Need Work Group next year WILL result in a need for additional acute care beds in Wake County.**
3. As we have already discussed, next year will be **too late**, there must be both a Wake County bed need allocation and a Wake County operating room need allocation to provide us with the opportunity to partner with a healthcare provider to develop a community hospital to serve all of southern Wake County.

¹ HSA IV is defined by the state in the 2010 SMFP to include these counties: Wake, Durham, Orange, Franklin, Chatham, Lee, Vance, Person, Johnston, and Warren.

4. The undeveloped beds in Wake County were approved in 2004 and 2005. The Holly Springs Petition should not be denied because existing providers fail to move forward with development of CON approved acute care beds needed by the citizens of Wake County.
5. The undeveloped beds in Wake County were in the acute care bed inventory last year when the SHCC recommended approval of an adjusted bed need determination submitted by WakeMed for 18 new acute care beds to be specialty beds for Level IV NICU. WakeMed had at that time, and still has CON approval for the development of 60 new acute care beds in Wake County. Yet the SHCC still approved the Petition for the 18 NICU beds. WakeMed now has 113 CON approved acute care beds, 61 of which will be located in a new hospital in northern Wake County, which are not operational.
6. Since the WakeMed Petition for acute care bed need adjustment for Wake County in the 2009 SMFP was approved, when WakeMed had 60 undeveloped acute care beds, it is not reasonable to deny the Holly Springs acute care bed need adjustment for Wake County based upon WakeMed's undeveloped beds.
7. Of the "Existing and Approved" nearby healthcare facilities, WakeMed has decided not to develop the surgery center, Rex has delayed the development of the urgent care center and the Clayton facility is not in Wake County.

The time is NOW. Unless both beds and operating rooms are in the annual SMFP, Holly Springs cannot move forward with the development of a community hospital. As one of the fastest growing communities in Wake County and North Carolina, the population of Holly Springs and southern Wake County ask that you approved the Town of Holly Springs Petition for an adjusted bed need determination in Wake County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carl G. Dean
Town Manager

Cc: Holly Springs Town Council