

FERNCREEK
CARDIOLOGY, PA
EXPERTS IN HEART & VASCULAR DISEASES

3650 Cape Center Drive
Fayetteville, NC 28304
T 910-483-0049
F 910-339-8905

MATTHEW A DAKA, MD, FACC, FSCAI
SURIYA JAYAWARDENA, MD, FACC, FSCAI
MANESH THOMAS, MD FACC, FSCAI

DAVID B. GILBERT, MD, FACP, FACC
SELVARATNAM SINNA, MD, FACC, FASE
MUHAMMAD MARWALI, MD, PhD

July 29, 2015

Dr. Christopher Ullrich
Chairman, State Health Coordinating Council
Health Planning and Certificate of Need Section
North Carolina Division of Facilities Services
701 Barbour Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27603

Re: Harnett Health, LLC
Petition for a Shared/Fixed Cardiac Catheterization Need Designation in Harnett
County

Dear Dr. Ullrich:

I am a Board Certified Cardiologist with additional certification in Interventional Cardiology and Adult Transthoracic Plus Transesophageal Echocardiography. My partners and I are qualified as interventional cardiologists and practice at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center in Fayetteville, and at Harnett Health in Dunn and Lillington. We have had an office in Dunn since 2013 and began providing services to Harnett Health in March, 2015.

Harnett Health has informed me about their Petition for a Shared/Fixed Cardiac Catheterization Need Designation in Harnett County. As an interventional cardiologist it is imperative that the tools of my trade, especially cardiac catheterization equipment, be available to most effectively provide care to our patients in Harnett County.

Currently, 100% of Harnett County residents must travel out of county to receive cardiac catheterization services. This is no longer acceptable. My partners and I need the tools necessary to keep Harnett County residents home.

As you know, there no longer is controversy regarding the use of angioplasty and other catheter-based interventions without cardiac surgery capability. As stenting has become more and more widespread, the safety of angioplasty has increased. In the late 90's, medical personnel began discussing the feasibility of performing angioplasty on an emergency basis in hospitals without surgical backup. The largest study of its kind on this subject was presented at the 2002 Scientific Sessions of the American Heart Association - the conclusion: emergency angioplasty in hospitals without surgical backup is safe.



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Further, mortality rates increase dramatically if it takes longer than 30 minutes from onset to stenting based on data from a June 2005 study in the American Journal of Cardiology. Harnett County residents currently travel more than 30 minutes for cardiac catheterization. Patients with treatable myocardial infarction need to get to a hospital that can perform angioplasty and we need to have that ability in Harnett County.

Please convey my enthusiastic support and that of my colleagues for approval of this Petition.

Sincerely,

Sufiya Jayawardena, MD, FACC
Ferncreek Cardiology, PA
803 Tilghman Drive
Dunn, NC 28334



July 29, 2015

Dr. Christopher Ullrich
Chairman, State Health Coordinating Council
Health Planning and Certificate of Need Section
North Carolina Division of Facilities Services
701 Barbour Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27603

Re: Harnett Health, LLC
Petition for a Shared/Fixed Cardiac Catheterization Need Designation in Harnett
County

Dear Dr. Ullrich:

I am a Board Certified Radiologist with Valley Radiology. My partners and I provide radiology services for Harnett Health. We have been providing radiology services in conjunction with Harnett Health for more than 27 years in Harnett County. I have been with Valley Radiology for 5 years.

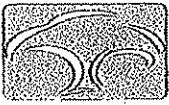
Harnett Health has informed me about their Petition for a Shared/Fixed Cardiac Catheterization Need Designation in Harnett County. Acquiring this equipment would allow Harnett Health access to expand its services to include interventional radiology for residents of Harnett Health.

Currently, 100% of Harnett County residents must travel out of county to receive cardiac catheterization services and interventional radiology services. This is no longer acceptable. My partners and I need the tools necessary to keep Harnett County residents home.

Please convey my enthusiastic support and that of my colleagues for approval of this Petition.

Sincerely,

Grant Yangi, MD
Board Certified Vascular Radiologist



Harnett
C O U N T Y
NORTH CAROLINA

Department of Public Health

www.harnett.org

July 29, 2015

Harnett County Government Complex
307 W. Cornelius Harnett Boulevard
Lillington, NC 27546

Dr. Christopher Ullrich
Chairman, State Health Coordinating Council
Health Planning and Certificate of Need Section
North Carolina Division of Facilities Services
701 Barbour Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27603

ph: 910-893-7550
fax: 910-893-9429

Re: Harnett Health, LLC
Petition for a Shared/Fixed Cardiac Catheterization Need Designation in Harnett County

Dear Dr. Ullrich:

I am the Health Director of the Harnett County Health Department. The Harnett County Health Department is an integral part of the quality health care system in Harnett County, and provides core public health services and innovative health care solutions. Across the state, a network of essential services known as Public Health, works together to protect and improve the health of all citizens and to make our communities a safe and healthy place to live. The Harnett County Health Department is a vital part of this important network.

The Harnett County Health Department and Harnett Health have ongoing communication regarding cooperation and complementary services and Harnett Health has informed me about their Petition for a Shared/Fixed Cardiac Catheterization Need Designation in Harnett County.

As reflected in our 2013 Harnett County Community Health Needs Assessment, the CHNA workgroup identified Hypertension and other cardiovascular disease (particularly in black males) as a Predominant Clinical Health Status Concern. The age-adjusted mortality rate for heart disease in Harnett County has decreased in the last five years and we expect the downward trend to continue. However, compared to North Carolina, Harnett County has 15.0% higher age-adjusted mortality rates for heart disease. We still have work to do.

All of the partners that participated in the CHNA concurred that access to appropriate health services is critical to community health. Nonetheless, there are many reasons why people in Harnett Health's service area may experience access barriers. Some of the significant reasons are believed to include low health literacy, insufficient awareness of available health services, cultural and racial barriers, language barriers, high health care costs and other financial barriers, and an absence of adequate transportation. Not only are these parameters access issues, but they are also contributing causes to poor health status.

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We believe the lack of physicians, both primary care providers and cardiologists, in Harnett County is one of several reasons for the higher age-adjusted death rates. While the Health Department has initiated several educational programs and outreach to the at-risk population; assisting the community with access to primary care and specialty care providers is the most significant area of Harnett Health's investment in community health strategies. Harnett Health is working to recruit additional primary care and specialty care physicians to the community. In the last year Harnett Health has recruited additional primary care physicians and cardiologists to address the lack of access to care in our community.

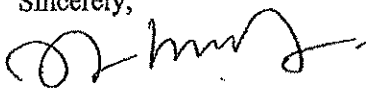
At this time, 100% of Harnett County residents must travel out of county to receive cardiac catheterization services. This is no longer acceptable. Our cardiologists need the tools necessary to keep Harnett County residents home.

As you know, there no longer is controversy regarding the use of angioplasty and other catheter-based interventions without cardiac surgery capability. As stenting has become more and more widespread, the safety of angioplasty has increased. In the late 90's, medical personnel began discussing the feasibility of performing angioplasty on an emergency basis in hospitals without surgical backup. The largest study of its kind on this subject was presented at the 2002 Scientific Sessions of the American Heart Association - the conclusion: emergency angioplasty in hospitals without surgical backup is safe.

Further, mortality rates increase dramatically if it takes longer than 30 minutes from onset to stenting based on data from a June 2005 study in the American Journal of Cardiology. Harnett County residents currently travel more than 30 minutes for cardiac catheterization. Patients with treatable myocardial infarction need to get to a hospital that can perform angioplasty and we need to have that ability in Harnett County.

Please convey my enthusiastic support and that of my colleagues for approval of this Petition.

Sincerely,



John Rouse, Jr.
Health Director
Harnett County Health Department



Harnett Health

P.O. Box 1706
Dunn, NC 28335
(910) 892-1000

From the Office of the President and CEO

July 29, 2015

Dr. Christopher Ullrich
Chairman, State Health Coordinating Council
Health Planning and Certificate of Need Section
North Carolina Division of Facilities Services
701 Barbour Dr.
Raleigh, NC 27603

Re: Harnett Health, LLC
Petition for a Shared/Fixed Cardiac Catheterization Need Designation in Harnett County

Dear Dr. Ullrich:

I am the President of Harnett Health. Harnett Health is submitting a Petition for a Special Need Designation for Shared/Fixed Cardiac Catheterization in Harnett County. As President of Harnett Health since November, 2014, I have experienced firsthand the changes made by Cape Fear Valley Health System upon obtaining management of the Harnett Health System. For one, interventional cardiologists have been recruited and are now present at Harnett Health facilities every day. This was not the case one year ago.

Currently, 100% of Harnett County residents must travel out of county to receive cardiac catheterization services. This is no longer acceptable. Our local cardiologists are trained for diagnostic and interventional cardiology and they need the tools necessary to keep Harnett County residents home.

As you know, there no longer is controversy regarding the use of angioplasty and other catheter-based interventions without cardiac surgery capability. As stenting has become more and more widespread, the safety of angioplasty has increased. In the late 90's, medical personnel began discussing the feasibility of performing angioplasty on an emergency basis in hospitals without surgical backup. The largest study of its kind on this subject was presented at the 2002 Scientific Sessions of the American Heart Association -- the conclusion: emergency angioplasty in hospitals without surgical backup is safe.

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Harnett Health is working with the new medical school at Campbell University in Harnett County. The first group of medical students will be beginning medical rounds in Harnett Health facilities next year. This includes a Cardiology rotation and an Emergency rotation. The addition of cardiac catheterization services in Harnett County will benefit these students as well as the residents of the county.

Finally, no one can predict when a heart attack will happen so adding a mobile service is not the answer. If it happens on Tuesday but the mobile catheterization lab is not there until Thursday, access to care is not improved. In addition, in my experience temporary or part time services are rarely successful. When mobile equipment is utilized physicians do not see a commitment to a program and move to another service area. Further, the cost of providing mobile services is greater than providing a full time fully utilized program. We expect our utilization of the fixed/shared cardiac catheterization program to be financially viable as evidenced in our Petition. Therefore, we are asking for an adjusted need determination to pursue fixed/share cardiac catheterization services in Harnett County.

We appreciate the time and energy that SHCC and the State Health Planning staff take in reviewing petitions for special need determinations. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need clarification regarding our petition. I hope you agree with Harnett Health and approve a special need determination for one shared/fixed cardiac catheterization unit in Harnett County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel R. Weatherly", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Daniel R. Weatherly
President
Harnett Health System
800 Tilghman Drive
Dunn, NC 28334