

July 29, 2020

SMFP Meeting Remarks

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen of the North Carolina Medical Facilities Planning board. My name is Andre' Bright and I am here on behalf of Solomon and Marissa Dunston. They are seeking approval to establish a dialysis treatment center which will be located in Youngsville, North Carolina. Their desire is to provide greater access to quality treatment for patients of Franklin county.

Per the state medical facilities plan for 2019, approximately 24% of residents travel outside of the county for treatment. The majority seek treatment in centers located in northern Wake county. Placing a treatment center in Youngsville will provide additional options for patients who currently drive to Wake Forest for treatment. The addition of this treatment center will free up capacity within Wake county to service the needs of their growing community.

Data from the US Census Bureau indicates that Wake county is adding roughly 20,000 each year. Highway 1/Capital Blvd has experienced significant development driven by the construction of new residential communities in northern parts of the county. Wake Forest has experienced a growth rate of >4% over the past several years. Given these dynamics, additional treatment beds will be needed at some point in time. The only question is when?

Covid-19 has created a major disruption in our lives. It is forcing changes in both our social and business norms. Just think about how we greet people today. Handshakes have been replaced with fist or elbow bumps. What impact will this have on medical treatment facilities? Will the state dedicate certain dialysis treatment centers for patients who have been exposed to Covid-19? How will this impact existing capacity and utilization rates? Given the delicate balance between available capacity and patient demand, such a move may require the addition of capacity in areas with high patient population densities (such as Wake County). This proposal provides the board with an option to manage through the uncertainty of the Covid-19 crisis.

Finally, the Dunston's have a passion for solving problems and helping people. They believe that their facility will provide better health outcomes for the residents of Franklin county by providing more access and reducing time spent traveling to centers outside of the county.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. On behalf of Solomon and Marissa Dunston, we speak blessings over the lives of you and your family.