

1 STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
2 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
3 STATE HEALTH PLANNING BOARD

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6 PUBLIC HEARING RE:

7 CERTIFICATE OF NEED APPLICATIONS  
8 REGARDING PERINATAL SERVICES IN  
9 MERCER COUNTY  
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11 Monument Elementary  
12 145 Pennington Avenue  
13 Trenton, New Jersey  
14 Tuesday, November 25, 2014

15

16 TIME: 6:00 P.M.

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18 B E F O R E:

19 DR. JUDY DONLEN, RN DNSC-CHAIR  
20 MICKEY GROSS-MEMBER  
21 JOHN CALABRIA-DIRECTOR OF  
22 CERTIFICATE OF NEED AND  
23 LICENSURE-DOH  
24 SUSAN DOUGHERTY-ASSISTANT  
25 COMMISSIONER

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## 1 LIST OF SPEAKERS

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3 MADELYN TORREZ

4 DONNA PRESSMA

5 SERENA USERY

6 ADIA ALLEN

7 LINDA KITA

8 EILEEN HORTON

9 HILDA VILLANUEVA

10 SHAHERA HUTCHINSON

11 LATESIA JACKSON

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1           (Transcript of proceedings, Tuesday,  
2   November 25, 2014, commencing at 6:06 p.m.)

3                     DR. DONLEN: Good evening. My name  
4   is Judy Donlen. I am the Chair of the State Health  
5   Planning Board.

6                     Joining me tonight is Susan  
7   Dougherty. Susan is an Assistant Commissioner for  
8   the Department of Health. Also attending is a  
9   member of the State Health Planning Board, Mickey  
10  Gross.

11                    This is a public hearing of the  
12  State Health Planning Board in relation to  
13  Perinatal Services in Mercer County.

14                    The Department deemed the  
15  application submitted by Capital Health and  
16  University Medical Center of Princeton at  
17  Plainsboro complete and in accordance with the  
18  requirements of law. The State Health Planning  
19  Board is required to hold a public hearing on  
20  these applications within thirty days of this  
21  action.

22                    Adequate notice of this hearing has  
23  been published in accordance with the provisions  
24  of NJSA 26:2H-15.8. Notice was sent to the  
25  Secretary of State, who posted the Notice in a

1 public place.

2 Copies of the Hospitals' CN  
3 applications are available for review at the  
4 Trenton Public Library, the Plainsboro Public  
5 Library, the New Jersey State Library in Trenton,  
6 and at the Department of Health.

7 Information gathered at this  
8 hearing will be reviewed by the State Health  
9 Planning Board, in addition to reviewing the  
10 applications from Capital Health and the  
11 University Medical Center of Princeton at  
12 Plainsboro and the Department's staff analysis, as  
13 well as the public-- as well as the staff's  
14 analysis and recommendations, in a public meeting.

15 Although not all the members of  
16 the State Health Planning Board are present  
17 tonight, this community public hearing is being  
18 transcribed. And the transcript, along with any  
19 written comments submitted tonight will be  
20 available to all Board members, along with the  
21 transcript and written submissions, prior to the  
22 meeting, to review this application.

23 There will also be limited time  
24 available at the next public meeting of the State  
25 Health Planning Board, to hear from members of the

1 public. At that meeting the applicants will  
2 present the application and answer questions the  
3 Board members may have.

4 In the interest of making  
5 efficient use of tonight's hearing, each speaker  
6 will be limited to three minutes. If you have  
7 longer written comments with you, please provide a  
8 copy to the Board and they will be added to the  
9 record.

10 Anyone interested in speaking  
11 tonight, should sign-in on the speaker sheet at  
12 the entrance to the auditorium, over there to the  
13 right. Anyone who wants to submit written comments  
14 after tonight's hearing and before the Board  
15 meeting, are urged to do so. Such comments must  
16 be submitted to the Board no later than Wednesday,  
17 December 3rd and should be addressed to the State  
18 Health Planning Board Board in care of the  
19 Department of Health.

20 For those of you who are unfamiliar  
21 with the Certificate of Need process, the State  
22 Health Planning Board will vote on a  
23 recommendation as to the decision on these  
24 applications, which will be submitted to the  
25 Commissioner of Health.

1                   The State Health Planning Board's  
2   hearing is part of the Certificate of Need  
3   process. And your comments are considered as we  
4   review the issues related to health planning,  
5   hospital and related health care services and  
6   access to health care services. Your comments are  
7   an important part of this process and will be  
8   considered along with other material submitted by  
9   the applicants.

10                   The Board can recommend approval  
11   of the application, approval with conditions or  
12   denial of the applications before it. The  
13   Commissioner then makes a final decision on the  
14   applications after the Board's recommendation.

15                   So that talks about what we're  
16   going to do. The process starts now. I have a  
17   timer. And I will time you for three minutes  
18   after your name is called. When you come up to  
19   the front I'd like you to say your name, spell  
20   your last name. And if you take a breath near the  
21   end, I'll give you a thirty second warning. If you  
22   try to talk real fast where I'll have to slow you  
23   down, because you have to talk slow enough to be  
24   able to be transcribed.

25                   The last person who I didn't

1     introduce yet is John Calabria. Mr. Calabria is  
2     the Director of Certificate of Need and Licensure  
3     of the Department of Health, close enough.

4                     So we're ready to start. I have  
5     several names on here. If anybody else comes in  
6     who wants to speak, you can tell them that we have  
7     a sign-in sheet here, that they can come up and  
8     sign.

9                     Can we leave another one over  
10    there? Okay, so there is still one up on the  
11    stage.

12                    All right. So the first name on  
13    here is Madelyn Torrez. After that will be Donna  
14    Pressma.

15                    MS. DOUGHERTY: Madelyn has a  
16    translator.

17                    DR. DONLEN: Madelyn has a  
18    translator. We need you to come up here.

19                    MS. VILLANUEVA: I'm just going to  
20    interpret for her. I put my name in also.

21                    DR. DONLEN: You're Donna?

22                    MS. VILLANUEVA: I'm Hilda, Hilda  
23    Villanueva, V-i-l-l-a-n-u-e-v-a.

24                    (Whereupon Ms. Torrez' comments are  
25    translated by Hilda Villanueva, Spanish

1 Interpreter)

2 MS. TORREZ: Madelyn Torrez,  
3 T-o-r-r-e-z. Goodnight, my name is Madelyn  
4 Torrez. Tonight I come to talk about the services  
5 that Capital Health-Hopewell has given me. For me  
6 the three points--the most important three points  
7 are that when I am --when I go to my doctor's  
8 appointments they have a good-- they give me good  
9 attention. They clarify all of my questions about  
10 my pregnancy, concerns and everything in respect  
11 to prenatal care.

12 They also have, you know, offered  
13 me transportation whenever I don't have  
14 transportation to my-- go to the hospital, they  
15 also let me know how to go to --you know, the  
16 place to go.

17 One of the things that are most  
18 important to me is since I'm a Spanish speaking  
19 mom, I have-- knowing that that they have Spanish  
20 speaking persons.

21 The place is very nice. It feels  
22 good just to go in there. Also when it is so --  
23 the access to, like, transportation --the  
24 transportation is very accessible. Thank you.

25 DR. DONLEN: Thank you. Hilda, you



1 don't want to speak on your own as well or do you?

2 It is up to you

3 MS. VILLANUEVA: I think that will  
4 do it.

5 DR. DONLEN: When I call your name  
6 you can decide if you want to come back up on your  
7 own. Donna Pressma.

8 MS. PRESSMA: Donna Pressma. You  
9 want my last name spelled?

10 DR. DONLEN: Yes.

11 MS. PRESSMA: The last name is  
12 Pressma, P-r-e-s-s-m-a, first name Donna.

13 Okay. I have six points. Since  
14 2005, Childrens Home Society of New Jersey, which  
15 I am the president and CEO, has worked in  
16 partnership with Capital Health to produce full  
17 term healthy Trenton babies.

18 We also help reduce the number of  
19 days that those babies need to stay in the NICU.  
20 Our joint programs begin in pre-conception into  
21 pregnancy and delivery, continue through the first  
22 few years of life. Through our joint programs in  
23 English, especially for the African-American  
24 community called Body and Soul, it's a culturally  
25 sensitive program. And in Spanish we have a joint

1 program with them called Cuna, for Spanish  
2 speaking moms.

3 Together we have enhanced the  
4 healthy outcomes of pregnancy for thousands of  
5 Trenton babies and parents over the last years.

6 We introduce our parents to the  
7 facilities at the Hopewell campus while they are  
8 still pregnant. That is exactly who Madelyn --she  
9 was referring to her Hopewell experience, as she's  
10 going to deliver there in February.

11 They tour the facility, meet the  
12 nurses and see what to expect when they deliver.  
13 Many of our Trenton parents tell us they prefer to  
14 delivery in in their labor/maternity services.

15 They have, as she has, their own--  
16 either their own transportation through family--  
17 we have one other mom who is going to talk about  
18 that, or the use of the free shuttle service  
19 provided by Capital Health from Trenton to the  
20 Hospital facilities and back and forth, for  
21 themselves and their families. And it works, as  
22 Madelyn said.

23 I most often hear from our mommies,  
24 we are no different from any other suburban mother  
25 who wants to be in the best and newest delivery

1       setting.  Again, Madelyn made that point to you.

2                       We have had nothing but positive  
3       comments from the nursing and delivering  
4       experiences of our mothers at Hopewell.  We must  
5       allow Capital to consolidate their services there  
6       and that's what why we came tonight, in order for  
7       them to be, quite honestly cost effective and able  
8       to protect the quality and the cultural  
9       sensitivity needed for Trenton parents.  They  
10      deserve it, they do get it at the wonderful  
11      Hopewell facilities that are there and actively  
12      serving our Trenton families.

13                     DR. DONLEN:  Thirty second.

14                     MS. PRESSMA:  They want the NICU  
15      there, too.  Because if they need it, for the few  
16      who do, it should all be in one place.  Besides  
17      saving lives, our NICU days are much reduced,  
18      because we can help our parents and even our  
19      Spanish speaking parents, go home sooner with  
20      their babies because they understand the proper  
21      care at home.

22                     I'm going to make a taxpayer point.  
23      That is, besides savings lives, consolidating at  
24      Hopewell saves charity care dollars for the  
25      taxpayer.  So thank you.

1 DR. DONLEN: Thank you. Serena  
2 Usery.

3 MS. USERY: Serena Usery,  
4 S-e-r-e-n-a, U-s-e-r-y.

5 I'm here to talk about my  
6 experience at Capital Health. When I had my baby,  
7 he was born August 23rd, the staff and everybody  
8 was very, very --they was very, very great to me.  
9 They were very good to me. I didn't have no  
10 problems.

11 The staff and the nurses, they  
12 attended to my every need. Yeah--they attended to  
13 my every need. They set me up with a good care  
14 package to bring home. I think I see one of the  
15 nurses right there, that delivered my second son.  
16 She was very nice to me also.

17 As I arrived to the hospital and I  
18 was going into labor, I was scared. I was  
19 frightened. I was crying that I had no pain  
20 medication or nothing. The nurses and the doctor  
21 there, they stuck with me through the whole entire  
22 event. They kept giving me courage and saying that  
23 I could do it, I could do it and I had the baby.

24 The shuttle to the hospital was a  
25 very good idea, too. Because I took the shuttle

1     when I was going to the hospital, over to  
2     Hopewell. It was very great for me. The whole  
3     experience was great. I recommend having your  
4     baby at Hopewell, because the nurses and the  
5     service is very, very excellent.

6                     DR. DONLEN: Thank you

7                     MS. USERY: You're welcome.

8                     DR. DONLEN: Adia Allen.

9                     MS. ALLEN: Adia Allen, A-l-l-e-n.

10                    My name is Adia Allen. I'm from  
11     Childrens Future. I'm a community health worker. I  
12     come to speak on behalf of the prenatal clinic,  
13     Health Start at 433 Bellevue and the maternity  
14     ward at--

15                    DR. DONLEN: Can you speak a little  
16     louder?

17                    MS. ALLEN: I'm sorry. My  
18     experience prior to this job being the community  
19     health worker, I was a patient navigator for the  
20     Central Jersey Family Health Consortium.

21                    The staff at the prenatal clinic  
22     works very well with my ladies, giving them  
23     appointments, connecting them to resources in the  
24     community, as well as dieticians-- they have-- I'm  
25     looking, I'm sorry. They have a registered

1     dietician, several case managers, nurse case  
2     managers, that connect--that can connect women to  
3     resources in the community.

4                     We also have a good connection at  
5     Childrens Future. I have-- I get a lot of my  
6     referrals from the Capital Health System. Which I  
7     can connect with my mothers, not just health wise,  
8     but we can connect them to get their GED,  
9     WIC, which is right across the street from 433  
10    Bellevue, the prenatal clinic.

11                    We can get them applied for  
12    affordable housing, just to get them on their feet  
13    to live a better life, for them and their babies.

14                    I love-- I really, really truly  
15    love Capital Health System. I think they give a  
16    lot and they work with their heart. It is just  
17    not a job to them. That's all I have to say.  
18    Thank you and have a great day or evening.

19                    DR. DONLEN: Thank you. Linda  
20    "Kita".

21                    MS. KITA: It's Kita, K-i-t-a, first  
22    name Linda.

23                    Hi. My name is Linda Kita. I'm a  
24    nurse midwife. I have delivered babies here in  
25    Trenton for the past twenty years. The first seven

1 of which I delivered out of the Henry J. Austin  
2 Health Center and Helene Fuld. Then ten years at  
3 Mercer Medical Center and the past three years out  
4 of Hopewell and Regional Medical Center.

5 I can tell you change is hard,  
6 but change happens and that's how we move forward.  
7 When we went into this last change where people  
8 would have to decide whether they would deliver at  
9 Regional Medical Center here in Trenton or  
10 Hopewell, knowing that our clients predominantly  
11 came from Trenton, we expected that there might be  
12 a fifty/fifty split between our patients.

13 We're three years in and I can  
14 tell you that up until the end of October we had  
15 881 deliveries at Hopewell and about 150 from our  
16 Health Start program at Hopewell.

17 That means we staff both places  
18 equally. We a physician and a midwife full-time  
19 at both campuses. It's just a poor use of our  
20 resources.

21 We very much look forward to a time  
22 where we can consolidate our resources. Because as  
23 health care providers, we are at our best when  
24 we're doing what we're doing all of the time, not  
25 sitting around waiting for the next patient to

1 roll in the door. We want to be busy. We want to  
2 be testify. We want to use our resources to their  
3 absolute, you know, best use to care for our  
4 patients.

5 The plan, as I understand it,  
6 will be to move the resources, hopefully, from  
7 Trenton out to Hopewell where we can shore up the  
8 services there. Where, quite frankly, at times we  
9 are overwhelmed. We are simply--our services are  
10 split equally, our patients are not.

11 We are really looking forward to  
12 having our--consolidating our resources and being  
13 able to continue to care for people to the best of  
14 our ability. Thank you.

15 If transportation is an issue, we  
16 should all be petitioning New Jersey Transit to  
17 get a bus route out to Hopewell. We need to make  
18 sure that EMS knows that pregnant ladies all go  
19 out to Hopewell. If transportation is the issue,  
20 let's deal with transportation. Thank you.

21 DR. DONLEN: Eileen Horton.

22 MS. HORTON: I'll be short. Eileen  
23 Horton, H-o-r-t-o-n.

24 I am the vice-president of patient  
25 services and chief nursing officer at Capital



1 Health. But I started my time at Capital Health  
2 over twenty years ago as a maternity nurse. It  
3 truly gratifies me to hear what the people have  
4 come here tonight have said. Because my heart is  
5 still in the maternity business at Capital Health.

6 I believe that we've always tried  
7 to do what's right for the patients and we will  
8 continue to do what's right for the patient. So  
9 thank you.

10 My real purpose is to come up here  
11 and just to inform the Board that the proposed  
12 consolidation has been reviewed and approved by  
13 the Capital Health Board of Directors. Thank you.

14 DR. DONLEN: Will you be at the  
15 meeting on the 11th?

16 MS. HORTON: I will.

17 DR. DONLEN: So if we have  
18 questions for you--

19 MS. HORTON: I will answer them  
20 all.

21 DR. DONLEN: Thank you. Now,  
22 Hilda, you get to decide, do you want to make your  
23 own statement.

24 MS. VILLANUEVA: We work in the  
25 program. I'll speak on her behalf.

1 DR. DONLEN: Tag team. Just give us  
2 your full name and spell your last name.

3 MS. VILLANUEVA: Good evening. My  
4 name is Hilda Villanueva, V-i-l-l-a-n-u-e-v-a. I  
5 work at the Childrens Home Society. I am a group  
6 facilitator for the Cuna program, and also assist  
7 Ms. Shahera with the Body and Soul program.

8 I am very happy with the  
9 collaboration that we have with Capital Health.  
10 Just because as Spanish speaking, coming in from a  
11 different, you know, background, country, things  
12 are different coming in here. We are showing our  
13 moms and taking them to a hospital tour, so they  
14 can see, you know, how it is. It is a great help.

15 I tell my moms all the time, I  
16 really like the way they treat us. We can call  
17 and schedule these hospital tours with no  
18 difficulty. You know, they always are open to  
19 give us, you, know some time and schedule these  
20 hospital tours.

21 Seeing the moms feeling more  
22 comfortable at Hopewell, you know, going in there  
23 and knowing where to go. You know, even the main  
24 entrance, going in there, talking to the security  
25 guard. And knowing that they do speak the

1 language, it makes me feel, you know, happy for  
2 them. I know they really are.

3 DR. DONLEN: Thank you.

4 MS. HUTCHINSON: I'm Shahera  
5 Hutchinson, H-u-t-c-h-i-n-s-o-n. My first name is  
6 Shahera, S-h-a-h-e-r-a.

7 As Hilda said, I am the  
8 facilitator of the Body and Soul program, which is  
9 the English speaking/African- American prenatal  
10 support group. I also assist with the Cuna  
11 program at times when needed.

12 I would just like to say that  
13 taking our moms on the hospital tour is a great  
14 thing, to the Hopewell campus especially. Because  
15 our moms feel that they have to deliver somewhere  
16 in Trenton. They don't know much about Hopewell.  
17 Until we take them on the hospital tour and we  
18 take them from start to finish.

19 As I tell them, we'll take you  
20 from beginning to end, except for the actual  
21 delivery. So we'll take you into registration.  
22 We'll take them to the triage. Then they'll go in  
23 to the see the maternity ward. They'll view the  
24 rooms. They view the Jacuzzi. So they get a  
25 sense of what the nurses do and how they will

1 interact with them, because the nurses are there  
2 on the floor.

3 We don't get to see the NICU,  
4 because of health reasons. But there is someone  
5 who comes down and speaks to our moms about the  
6 NICU, as well as showing a video that we do.

7 So it is kind of, like, they get a  
8 simulation of what the NICU will look like,  
9 through video and through someone speaking to  
10 them.

11 So once they leave the hospital  
12 tour, by the time we have our baby shower, the  
13 moms are comfortable. They can't wait to get back  
14 to Hopewell to deliver their babies.

15 As Ms. Serena has said, it is a  
16 great experience. That's what I hear from all of  
17 my moms. So that's just what I wanted to share.  
18 Thank you.

19 DR. DONLEN: Thank you. That  
20 covers everybody who signed up to speak. Is  
21 there--did somebody else come in?

22 Okay. Latesia Jackson. Give your  
23 name and spell your last name. I'll give you three  
24 minutes. I'll give you a thirty second warning, if  
25 you are talking slow enough that you can hear me.

1 MS. JACKSON: My first name is  
2 Latesia, L-a-t-e-s-i-a. My last name is Jackson.

3 I'm speaking on behalf of the  
4 Women's Centering program. I just want to let  
5 everybody know how it helped me. I appreciated  
6 going there.

7 I enjoyed meeting with the women  
8 who were all pregnant and due around the same time  
9 that I was due. We were there and we gained  
10 relationships with our nurses and we gained  
11 relationships with each other.

12 We came in not knowing each other,  
13 but we left kind of like family. I still keep in  
14 touch with the ladies I was in Centering with  
15 today.

16 Centering helped. It was really  
17 good, because, you know, being pregnant you don't  
18 always have someone to talk to. Nobody knows how  
19 you feel. Being able to the Centering meetings it  
20 was a relief. Because I was able to, you know,  
21 talk to women who were going through the same  
22 thing that I was going through.

23 We were able to give each other  
24 tips, like, oh, if you have this problem, you can  
25 use this, you know, or you can do that.

1                   It was just, like, you know, iron  
2   sharp, sharpening iron. It was good. I like it and  
3   I can't wait for our reunion, which is next month.

4                   I appreciate my nurses over there.  
5   Linda was one of them and Chris Smith. We had a  
6   good time. I hope that it goes on for all of the  
7   ladies who were after me. Because it's beneficial,  
8   it is. That's it.

9                   DR. DONLEN: Thank you. That covers  
10   everybody who signed up to speak. So we're going  
11   to take a break. We will reconvene if anybody  
12   wants to speak. We'll be here at least until 7:30.  
13   We'll keep the floor open for new people to come  
14   in. We are in recess.

15                  (Whereupon, the matter stands in  
16   recess from 6:32 to 7:20 p.m.)

17                  MS. DONLEN: We're back on the  
18   record. It is 7:20. Nobody else has showed up to  
19   speak, so we're going to close the meeting. Thank  
20   you very much, everybody, for coming.

21                  (Whereupon, the matter stands  
22   adjourned at 7:21 p.m.)

23

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## 1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3 I, CHARLES R. SENDERS, a Certified  
4 Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public of the State  
5 of New Jersey, do hereby certify that prior to the  
6 commencement of the examination, the witness was  
7 duly sworn by me to testify to the truth, the  
8 whole truth and nothing but the truth.

9 I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that the foregoing is  
10 a true and accurate transcript of the testimony as  
11 taken stenographically by and before me at the  
12 time, place and on the date hereinbefore set  
13 forth, to the best of my ability.

14 I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither  
15 a relative nor employee nor attorney nor counsel  
16 of any of the parties to this action, and that I  
17 am neither a relative nor employee of such  
18 attorney or counsel, and that I am not financially  
19 interested in the action.

20

21

C:\TINYTRAN\Charles Senders.bmp

22

23

24 CHARLES R. SENDERS, CSR NO. 596

25 Dated: November 28, 2014

STATE SHORTHAND REPORTING SERVICE, INC.

