

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

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4

5 PUBLIC HEARING RE:

6 CERTIFICATE OF NEED APPLICATIONS
7 REGARDING PERINATAL SERVICES IN
7 MERCER COUNTY

8

9 Monument Elementary
10 145 Pennington Avenue
10 Trenton, New Jersey
11 Tuesday, November 25, 2014

12 TIME: 6:00 P.M.

13

14 B E F O R E:

15 DR. JUDY DONLEN, RN DNSC-CHAIR
15 MICKEY GROSS-MEMBER
16 JOHN CALABRIA-DIRECTOR OF
16 CERTIFICATE OF NEED AND
16 LICENSURE-DOH
17 SUSAN DOUGHERTY-ASSISTANT
17 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.

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.

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.

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.)

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25

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

2

3 I, CHARLES R. SENDER, 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.

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25 Dated: November 28, 2014

C:\TINYTRAN\Charles Senders.bmp

25 Dated: November 28, 2014

