IN THE MATTER OF

ANNE ARUNDEL MEDICAL CENTER

Docket No. 15-02-2360

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* BEFORE THE

IN THE MATTER OF UNIVERSITY \* MARYLAND HEALTH CARE

OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE \* COMMISSION

WASHINGTON MEDICAL CENTER \*

Docket No. 15-02-2361

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## ANNE ARUNDEL MEDICAL CENTER RESPONSE TO REVISED RECOMMENDED DECISION

Anne Arundel Medical Center, Inc. ("AAMC"), by its undersigned counsel, hereby responds to Chairman Tanio's March 3, 2017 revised recommended decision (the "Recommended Decision") in regard to the above-captioned Baltimore Upper Shore Cardiac Surgery Review (the "Review").

AAMC endorses the Recommended Decision. Chairman Tanio continues to "recommend approval of the stronger AAMC application and to recommend denial of BWMC's weaker proposal..." AAMC's application satisfies all relevant State Health Plan criteria, while BWMC's does not. As the Recommended Decision explains, AAMC "has the highest potential for establishment of a lower charge cardiac surgery program that will also be high performing. AAMC is the larger of the two applicant hospitals and has a larger service area base than BWMC from which to draw patients." Moreover, as the Recommended Decision notes, AAMC is geographically "better positioned than BWMC to draw from the two urban areas where existing programs are concentrated and also better positioned to have the most positive impact on reducing travel time for cardiac surgery services.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Recommended Decision at 122.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Recommended Decision at 2.

especially for the population of the Eastern Shore." AAMC's program is, in sum, "a strong positive cost-effective strategy for developing cardiac surgery in Maryland...."

AAMC appreciates the continuing dedication shown by Chairman Tanio and the staff of the Maryland Health Care Commission in conducting this Review, exemplified by the thoughtful and evenhanded approach of Chairman Tanio over the past weeks.

AAMC files no exceptions to the Recommended Decision. AAMC requests the opportunity to file responses to any exceptions to the Recommended Decision, pursuant to the schedule set forth in the Recommended Decision. AAMC also requests the opportunity to present oral argument to the full Commission at its March 23, 2017 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Recommended Decision at 122.

<sup>4</sup> Id.