



Department of Health
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Jinlene Chan, M.D., M.P.H.
Health Officer

July 23, 2015

Mr. Ben Steffen
Executive Director
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215

Dear Mr. Steffen,

As the Health Officer for Anne Arundel County, Maryland, I am writing the Maryland Health Care Commission to request interested party status in relation to the Certificate of Need applications submitted by Anne Arundel Medical Center (AAMC) and the University of Maryland Baltimore Washington Medical Center (UM-BWMC) to expand their scope of services to include cardiac surgery

While geographically close in proximity to Baltimore City and Washington, D.C. where the closest existing cardiac surgery programs currently exist, County residents and their families still need to travel a minimum of 30 to 45 minutes to be able to access this life-saving procedure. In addition, this County has a relatively poor public transportation infrastructure such that the ability to travel to urban hospitals located in the city can present significant challenges for patients as well as family members who are a critical part of the patient clinical follow-up and recovery process.

Baltimore City alone has multiple cardiac surgery centers, including Johns Hopkins University, University of Maryland Medical Center, and Medstar Union Memorial Hospital, with a population of 622,000 people. Anne Arundel County has a population of over 555,000 people, yet does not have any cardiac surgery centers, which necessitates the need for patients arriving for initial care at one of our hospitals to then be transported out of the county for this higher level of care. Heart disease is a leading cause of death among County residents, with the latest 2013 data showing that nearly 900 people died of heart-related complications. Overall heart disease mortality trends continue to decrease, both in Anne Arundel County as well as the state of Maryland, ensuring a robust continuum of care within our own community for people at risk for complications of heart disease, including prevention, early intervention and tertiary care, is an important health priority here (Source: Anne Arundel County Report of Community Health Indicators, 2015).

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I urge the Maryland Health Care Commission to strongly consider approval for the cardiac surgery Certificate of Need to help meet the needs of Anne Arundel County residents. Please feel free to contact me at (410) 222-7375 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jinlene Chan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Jinlene Chan, M.D., M.P.H.
Health Officer

cc: Victoria Bayless, President and CEO, AAMC
Paula Widerlite, Vice-President for Strategic Planning, AAMC
Karen Olscamp, President and CEO, UM-BWMC
Kathy McCollum, Chief Operating Officer, UM-BWMC