

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Citizens of Northampton County

FROM: Hospital Task Force:
The Hon. H. Spencer Murray, Supervisor, District 4
The Hon. Richard Tankard, Supervisor, District 6

DATE: March 10, 2011

RE: Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital

On February 28, 2011, the Northampton County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a motion to oppose Riverside's Certificate of Public Need (COPN) application as currently submitted. We are not attempting to block the construction of a new in-patient facility in Accomack County; rather, we are advocating a comprehensive medical plan that covers both counties.

We believe that Riverside has ignored numerous negative impacts to public health and safety in significant segments of the Eastern Shore. Additionally, they have failed to meet the COPN criteria established in Virginia Code and the rules and regulations set forth by the Virginia Department of Health. Specifically:

* Riverside has not considered or addressed the Virginia Rural Health Plan of 2008 for the entire Eastern Shore community. (See www.va-srhp.org) Also see the Northampton County website homepage (www.co.northampton.va.us), for other information.

* Riverside has not addressed the impact to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS) for all communities on the Eastern Shore as shown on maps we have provided to Riverside. A future hospital located at Whispering Pines will not sufficiently allow coverage below Nassawadox. This failure represents an increased threat to loss of life.

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* Publicly, Riverside has stated that significant services will remain in Nassawadox. However, in the COPN application, Riverside has not committed to retaining services in Nassawadox such as oncology; i.e, cancer center. In fact, Riverside has not committed to leaving anything in Nassawadox beyond the fixed CAT scan and the pad for mobile MRI.

There are numerous factual errors and omissions in the COPN application. For instance, the COPN declares there are no other hospitals on the Eastern Shore. This ignores the fact that many Eastern Shore residents receive services from Peninsula General in Salisbury and Atlantic General in Berlin.

On behalf of the Northampton County Board of Supervisors, the Hospital Task Force encourages that you write to the Director expressing these and any other concerns you may have. We think letters can make a difference and should be addressed to:

Erik O. Bodin, Director
Div. of Certificate of Public Need
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 401
Richmond, Virginia 23233-1463

Erik.bodin@vdh.virginia.gov

And reference: COPN Request Number 7820
Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital
Replacement of a Medical Care Facility

Please attend the COPN public hearing on April 14, 2011, 11:00 a.m. at the Eastern Shore Community College, Melfa, Virginia, to make your voice heard.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Ms. Katherine H. Nunez, County Administrator, at 757/678-0440 ext. 19, or any member of the Hospital Task Force.

Yours for a safer Eastern Shore,

Hospital Task Force:

The Hon. H. Spencer Murray, Supervisor, District 4 (smurray@co.northampton.va.us)
The Hon. Richard Tankard, Supervisor, District 6 (mail@richardtankard.com)