

**Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia
Board of Directors Meeting
Video Conference Meeting
December 5, 2022**

Members Present

Ana Alvarez
Tom Fonseca, Chairperson
Bridgit Jennison, RN
Pamela Kincheloe, RN
Lydia Lawrence
Sally Patterson
Douglas Samuelson
Terry West
Maria Zlotnick

Staff Present

Ann McFeeley
Dean Montgomery

Guests (Partial List)

Elise Berman, MD, Medical Director, Fairfax Radiology Consultants
Elizabeth Breen, Counsel, Inova Health System
Sharon D'Heureux, MD, Chairperson, Diagnostic Imaging, Inova Loudoun Hospital
Vasken Dilsizian, MD, University of Maryland School of Medicine
Paul Dryer, Senior Director, Strategy & Planning, Inova Health System
Lauri Garrett, Carient Heart & Vascular
Merdod Ghafouri, MD, Carient Heart & Vascular
Mary Anne Harkins, University of Virginia Health System
Helen Linton, Sentara Northern Virginia Medical Center
Kim Masters, Fairfax Radiology Centers
Sean McCleary, Vice-President, Professional Services, Inova Health System
Patrick Oliverio, MD, Chairman, Diagnostic Radiology, Inova Fairfax Medical Campus,
Medical Director, Quality, Safety and Reliability, Fairfax Radiological Consultants
Betsy Reilly, Business Analyst, JHU Healthcare
Neel Shah, MD, Carient Heart & Vascular
Spencer Wildonger, Director of Planning, Transformation, JHU Medicine
Justin Zakia, CEO, Fairfax Radiology Centers

I. Call to Order

Tom Fonseca, Chairperson, Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia (HSANV), called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. He welcomed those present and reviewed the agenda.

Fonseca stated that, among other matters, the Committee would consider three certificate of public need (COPN) applications:

- Inova Reston MRI Center, Expand MRI Service, COPN Request VA-8672
- Inova Loudoun Hospital, Expand CT Service, COPN Request VA-8673
- Carient Heart & Vascular, Expand PET-CT Service, COPN Request VA-8626

II. Previous Minutes

Minutes of the November 7, 2022 meeting were approved

III. Conflict of Interest

Fonseca followed established HSANV conflict of interest procedures to determine whether any member had a conflict of interest on the applications on the agenda. Pamela Kincheloe declared a conflict on the Carient Heart & Vascular proposal, COPN Request VA-8626. No other conflicts were declared, alleged, or otherwise identified.

- IV. COPN Applications:**
- Inova Reston MRI Center, Establish MRI Service (COPN Request VA 8672)**
 - Inova Loudoun Hospital, Expand CT Service (COPN Request VA-8673)**
 - Carient Heart & Vascular, Expand Cardiac PET-CT Service (COPN Request VA-8626)**

A. Inova Reston MRI Center, Expand MRI Service, (COPN Request VA 8672)

HSANV Staff Review

Dean Montgomery said Inova Reston MRI Center (Inova Reston or IRMC), a joint venture of Inova Health System and Fairfax Radiology Consultants, proposes to expand its Herndon, VA diagnostic imaging service by adding a second MRI scanner.

Examination of the application, in the context of COPN planning requirements, the regional MRI market, and local MRI capacity and service volumes indicates that:

- Demand for MRI scanning and regional MRI capacity are in balance. Average regional service volumes in recent years have been between 80% and 85% of the Virginia Sate Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP) planning standard of 5,000 cases per scanner per year.
- Existing services and scanners are well distributed locally with a reasonable mix of hospital based and freestanding services.
- The IRMC service is heavily used, with recent and projected service volumes well above the nominal caseload planning standard.

- Projected capital costs are within the capital expenditure range commonly seen for similar projects.
- There is no indication that adding capacity at IRMC to meet current and projected demand is likely to affect service volumes or operations at other MRI services.

Based on these findings, and on the data and arguments presented in the application, staff concluded that the application qualifies for approval.

Inova Reston MRI Center Presentation

Elizabeth Breen, Counsel, Inova Health System, introduced herself and others representing the applicant: Patrick Oliverio, MD, Chairman, Diagnostic Radiology, Inova Fairfax Hospital; Justin Zakia, CEO, Fairfax Radiology Center; and Elise Berman, MD, Fairfax Radiological Consultants.

Breen, Zakia, Oliverio and Berman discussed the substance of the proposal and the necessity of adding capacity to meet current and expected near term demand. Among other considerations, they emphasized:

- The IRMC MRI service volume is high, substantially above the service volume planning standard of 5,000 patient scans per scanner annually, and demand is increasing.
- Additional capacity is needed to meet current and projected demand.
- There is no surplus capacity in Inova Health System or in the Fairfax Radiology Consultants network that can be reallocated or otherwise used to meeting demand at the service.
- Inova Reston MRI Center has an institution specific need for an additional MRI scanner.
- Projected capital costs are within the range seen for similar projects locally and statewide.
- Adding capacity to meet the institutional needs of IRMC is not likely to affect demand at or use of other MRI services.
- Expanding the service to meet growing demand efficiently will permit Inova Reston to continue to offer state-of-the-art breast cancer diagnosis and treatment.
- Replacement and relocation of the dated scanner is consistent with applicable provisions of the Virginia State Medical Facility Plan (SMFP), including the institutional need provision of the plan.

Board & Staff Questions, Discussion

In response to questions, Breen, Zakia, Oliverio and Berman stated that

- Inova Reston MRI Center is a freestanding diagnostic imaging center, not a hospital outpatient department nor an independent diagnostic testing facility (IDTF).
- Even with extended operating hours, to 11:00 PM five days a week, there is a more than two week scheduling backlog at the service.
- Inova Reston MRI Center is a joint venture in which Inova Health System holds a 65% interest and Fairfax Radiology Consultants holds a 35% interest.
- The center follows (adheres to) Inova Health System charity care policies and practices, which provides free care to the uninsured with family incomes up to 400% of the federal poverty level.
- Advanced breast cancer diagnosis and treatment, notably MRI guided biopsy, is one of the growing service categories at the center.

Public Comment

There was no public comment other than the letters of support submitted as a part of the application.

Final Summary

Elizabeth Breen stated that the applicant did not wish to offer additional testimony.

Staff Recommendation

Based on the information presented in the agency staff report on the application, and the testimony presented by IRMC representatives, Montgomery recommended approval of the application.

Board Deliberation and Vote

Douglas Samuelson offered a motion to recommend approval of the application. Sally Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of nine in favor (Alvarez, Fonseca, Jennison, Kincheloe, Lawrence, Patterson, Samuelson, West, Zlotnick) and none opposed.

B. Inova Loudoun Hospital, Expand CT Service, (COPN Request VA-8673)

HSANV Staff Review

Dean Montgomery reviewed the HSANV staff evaluation of the application. He said Inova Loudon Hospital proposes to expand its CT scanning service by adding a third CT scanner at the hospital's Lansdowne campus.

Examination of the application, in the context of COPN planning requirements, the regional CT market, and recent Inova Loudoun CT service volumes indicates that:

1. Average use of hospital based CT services region wide is high, substantially higher than the nominal service volume planning standard. Average use of the ILH hospital based scanners are among the highest in the region.
2. Average annual use of the hospital's four scanners is more than twice the Virginia State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP) nominal planning standard of 7,400 scans per scanner.
3. Average CT service volume at ILH's Lansdowne campus, which has two CT scanners, is more than 250% of the planning standard.
4. Use of diagnostic CT services within Inova Health System (Inova) is high and increasing. There is no available capacity within the system that can be used to accommodate increased demand at ILH.
5. Projected capital costs are within the range seen for similar projects locally and statewide.
6. Adding CT capacity at ILH would not affect demand at, or use of, any other CT service.
7. ILH has a strong claim to add CT capacity under the institutional need provision of the SMFP.

Based on these findings, and on the data and arguments presented in the application, staff concluded that the application qualifies for approval.

Inova Loudoun Hospital Presentation

Paul Dryer, Senior Director, Strategy & Planning, Inova Health System, introduced himself and others representing the applicant: Sean McCleary, Vice-President, Professional Services, Inova Health System; Sharon D'Heureux, MD, Chairperson, Diagnostic Imaging, Inova Loudoun Hospital.

Dryer, McCleary and D'Heureux discussed the proposal, focusing on the necessity of adding capacity to meet current and near term demand. The information they presented is summarized in the set of slide used during the discussion (Attachment 1). Among other considerations, they emphasized:

- CT services at Inova Loudon Hospital, and throughout Inova Health System, have high use and increasing demand.
- Use of Inova Loudoun Hospital CT services is among the highest within the system and in the region.
- There is no unused or under used capacity within the control of Inova Health System that can be reallocated to meet demand at ILH.
- Inova Loudoun Hospital has an institutional need for additional CT capacity.
- The capital cost of the project is reasonable, within the range commonly seen locally and elsewhere.

Board & Staff Questions, Discussion

There were no questions beyond those addressed by the ILH representatives during their presentation and ensuing discussion. Fonseca thanked the panel for their presentation.

Public Comment

There was no public comment other than the letters of support submitted as a part of the application.

Final Summary

Paul Dryer stated that the applicant did not wish to offer additional testimony.

Staff Recommendation

Based on the information presented in the agency staff report on the application, and the testimony presented by the Inova Loudoun Hospital representatives, Montgomery recommended approval of the application.

Board Deliberation and Vote

Sally Patterson offered a motion to recommend approval of the application. Douglas Samuelson seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of nine in favor (Alvarez, Fonseca, Jennison, Kincheloe, Lawrence, Patterson, Samuelson, West, Zlotnick) and none opposed.

C. Carient Heart & Vascular, Expand Cardiac PET Service, (COPN Request VA 8626)

HSANV Staff Review

Dean Montgomery said Carient Heart & Vascular (Carient), a large local cardiology group practice, proposes to expand its cardiac PET imaging service. Carient has five offices in Northern Virginia and two in neighboring communities (Stafford and **Facquier**). Its cardiac PET imaging service is located in Manassas, VA. The service would be expanded, and complemented, by adding a second cardiac PET scanner at Carient's Vienna, VA office.

Examination of the application, in the context of COPN planning requirements, the regional PET imaging market, and local PET imaging capacity and service volumes indicates that:

- Carient reports extraordinary growth over the last three years. The shift from SPECT imaging to PET myocardial perfusion imaging has been stronger than expected. Current demand from within the practice is about 3,800 cases per year and increasing
- Current and projected caseloads exceed the capacity of a single cardiac PET system.
- Carient's Manassas service is operating on extended hours with a long wait list.
- Hundreds of Fairfax County patients are traveling from Fairfax County to Manassas for the procedure. Locating needed additional imaging capacity in central Fairfax County (Vienna) would improve access for these patients.
- Carient qualifies for consideration to expand under the institutional need provision of the Virginia State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP) as it has been applied to diagnostic imaging services.
- The Virginia Heart cardiac PET service, which is scheduled to open in 2023 will serve patients within its group practice. It is not likely to reduce demand at Carient.
- Adding needed capacity at Carient, at the Vienna office or elsewhere, is not likely to affect demand or caseloads at Virginia Heart.

Based on these findings, and on the data and arguments presented in the application, staff believe the application qualifies for approval.

Carient Heart & Vascular Presentation

Merdod Ghafouri, MD, Carient Heart & Vascular, introduced himself and others representing the applicant: Neel Shah, MD, Carient Heart & Vascular, and Vasken Dilsizian, MD, University of Maryland School of Medicine. The information presented is summarized in the slides Carient speakers used in their discussions presentation (Attachment 2).

Ghafouri Shah, and Dilsizian discussed the rationale for the proposal, including the need to add capacity now to meet current and projected near term demand. Among other considerations, they emphasized:

- Cardiac PET scanning is the preferred diagnostic tool for many cardiovascular patients, especially those who might benefit from myocardial perfusion imaging.
- Carient is a large, growing cardiology practice (currently 7 locations and 16 physicians) which serves large numbers of cardiac patients annually, many of whom are potential beneficiaries of PET imaging.
- Its cardiac PET service, located in Manassas, VA, has high use. Demand is increasing rapidly.

- Recent service volumes, and near term projected volumes, exceed nominal capacity of a single cardiac PET scanner.
- Given the focus on cardiovascular disease among its clientele, expansion of Carient’s cardiac PET capacity is not likely to affect any other PET service negatively.
- Projected capital costs and financing arrangements are reasonable.
- To the extent they are applicable, the project is consistent with the diagnostic imaging provisions of the Virginia State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP).

Board & Staff Questions, Discussion

In response to questions Ghafouri, Shah, and Dilsizian stated that

- Demand for cardiac PET imaging, for myocardial perfusion imaging, from within the practice has been substantially higher than expected. Carient follows established cardiovascular diagnosis and treatment protocols and standards to identify patients likely to benefit from PET scanning and to avoid unnecessary use of the technology.
- Evidence is beginning to emerge showing a reduction in the reliance on diagnostic cardiac catheterization where the cardiac PET option is available. The percentage of Carient patients getting diagnostic catheterizations is decreasing, reducing both risk and treatment costs for many patients.
- To date, more than 90% of those getting a cardiac PET scan at Carient were shown to have blood vessel blockages, many of which are not detected by SPECT imaging or other diagnostic tests.

Public Comment

There was no public comment other than the letters of support submitted as a part of the application.

Final Summary

Ghafouri thanked the board for its questions and attention to the application.

Staff Recommendation

Based on the information presented in the agency staff report on the application, and the testimony presented by Carient representatives, Montgomery recommended approval of the application.

Board Deliberation and Vote

Douglas Samuelson offered a motion to recommend approval of the application. Sally Patterson seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of seven in favor (Alvarez, Fonseca, Jennison, Patterson, Samuelson, West, Zlotnick) and none opposed, with one abstention (Kincheloe).

VI. Other Business

The next HSANV board meeting was set for Monday, January 9, 2023.

VII. Adjourn

Fonseca adjourned the meeting 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dean Montgomery".

Dean Montgomery

Attachments (2)