##### Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**May 6, 2024**

**Members Present**

Ana Alvarez

Michael Carrasco

Patti Deitos, RN

Tom Fonseca

Pamela Kincheloe, RN, Chairperson

Patrice Lepczyk

Sally Patterson

Anitha Raj

Douglas Samuelson

Robert Sharpe

James Smith, MD

Jennifer Weber

Terry West

**Staff Present**

Ann McFeeley

Dean Montgomery

**Guests (Partial Listing)**

Elizabeth Breen, Counsel, Inova Health System

Paul Dryer, Senior Director, Strategy & Planning, Inova Health System

Andew Gill, Vice President & Administrator, IHSV, Inova Health System

Jessica Parker, Senior Director, Strategy & Planning, Inova Health System

Loren Rufino, Senior Vice President, Surgical Services, Inova Health System

Thomas Sanders, MD, Section Chief, Foot & Ankle Surgery, Inova Health System

Adrian Stanton, Vice President, VHC Health

Benham Tehrani, MD, Director, Inova Fairfax Hospital Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory

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# I. Call to Order

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

Kincheloe stated that, among other matters, the Committee would consider a certificate of public need application from Inova Fairfax Hospital (COPN Request VA-8747) which proposes to expand its cardiac catheterization service and Inova Fair Oaks Hospital (COPN Request VA-8746) which proposes to expand its surgery service. She noted that a third COPN application (COPN Request VA-8751) shown on the published agenda has been withdrawn.

She invited those present and online to introduce themselves.

**II. Previous Minutes**

Minutes of the April 22, 2024, meeting was approved.

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**III. Conflict of Interest**

Kincheloe followed established HSANV conflict of interest procedures to determine whether any member had a conflict of interest on either Inova application. No conflicts were declared, alleged, or otherwise identified.

**IV. COPN Application Review: Inova Fair Oaks Hospital (COPN Request VA-8746)**

###### HSANV Staff Review

Inova Health Care Services (Inova) requests COPN authorization to expand surgery capacity at Inova Fair Oaks Hospital (IFOH) The project would add two general purpose operating rooms (GPORs) to the twelve the hospital now has.

The project would entail renovating two procedure rooms and support space within the IFOH surgical suite. No new construction or space would be required. The projected capital cost is about $6.2 million. All capital costs would be paid from Inova Health System reserves. There would be no direct financing expense.

Examination of the application, in the context of COPN planning requirements, the regional surgery services market, and recent local surgery capacity and caseloads shows that:

* There is no public need for additional surgery services or surgery capacity in PD 8. The Virginia SMFP surgery services planning methodology indicates there is likely to be a regional general purpose operating room (GPOR) surplus of between seven and twelve beds over the next six years, 2024-2030.
* Inova Fair Oaks Hospital’s surgery service is heavily used. Demand and caseloads are increasing. Average operating room use exceeds the Virginia SMFP service volume standard of 1,600 hours per year.
* Additional capacity is needed to permit the hospital to meet current and projected demand.
* There is no unused surgery capacity within Inova Health System that can be used, or otherwise reallocated, to respond to increasing demand at IFOH.

Based on these findings, and on the data and arguments presented in the application, HSANV staff conclude that expansion of the Inova Fair Oaks Hospital surgery service as proposed is consistent with the institutional provision of the Virginia State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP).

###### Inova Fair Oaks Hospital Presentation (COPN Request VA-8746)

Elizabeth Breen, Counsel, Inova Health System, introduced herself and Inova Health Services representatives: Loren Rufino, Senior Vice President, Surgical Services, Inova Health System; and Thomas Sanders, MD, Section Chief, Foot & Ankle Surgery, Inova Health System.

Breen, Rufino, and Sanders presented the application, focusing on the high use of IFOH’s operating rooms and the pressing need for additional cooperating rooms to meet increasing demand. Among other considerations, they emphasized:

* Surgery service volumes are high and increasing steadily at Inova Fair Oaks Hospital. The average use of its GPORs is substantially more than the Virginia SMFP target service planning guideline of 1,600 hours per operating room annually.
* Additional surgery capacity is needed to accommodate current and projected near-term demand.
* IFOH qualifies for consideration to add operating rooms in accordance with the institutional need provision of the Virginia SMFP.
* The projected capital cost, about $6.2 million, is reasonable.
* Adding operating rooms at IFOH will not affect demand or surgical service caseloads at other surgery services.

***Board & Staff Questions, Discussion***

In response to questions, Breen, Rufino, and Sanders stated:

* IFOH has two unlicensed procedure rooms in contiguous space within the surgery service. Converting these two rooms to licensed operating rooms will exhaust the hospital’s contiguous space that can be converted into operating rooms. Any future expansion will require substantial new construction.
* Average operating room use is expected to remain above the Virginia SMFP planning guidance of 1,600 hours per room annually with the added capacity.
* Technological advances and related surgical practice changes, e.g., robotic surgery, are expanding surgical treatment options and increasing the average operating room time per case.

***Public Comment***

There was no public comment other than the letters of support included in the application.

***Inova Fair Oaks Hospital Summary Comment***

Breen said that the applicant would forgo a summary statement. She and her colleagues offered to answer any additional questions the board might have.

***Staff Recommendation***

Based on the information presented in the agency staff report and on the applicant’s testimony in support of the proposal, Montgomery recommended approval of the IFOH application. Among other considerations, he noted that:

* Inova acknowledges there is no basis for a claim of a regional need for additional surgery services or capacity. Its claim of an institution specific need for additional GPORs at IFOH is strong and well documented.
* Given the state of the regional surgery services market, and local medical trade patterns, there is no indication, or reason to believe, that expansion of the IFOH surgery service would affect other surgery services negatively.
* Approval of the project is consistent with the treatment of similar COPN proposals, locally and statewide.

***Board Deliberation and Vote***

Sally Patterson offered a motion to recommend approval of the application. James Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of twelve in favor (Alvarez, Carrasco, Deitos, Fonseca, Kincheloe, Lepczyk, Patterson, Raj, Sharpe, Smith, Weber, West) and none opposed.

**V. COPN Application Review: Inova Fairfax Hospital (COPN Request VA-8747)**

###### HSANV Staff Review

Inova Health Care Services (Inova) seeks COPN authorization to expand Inova Fairfax Hospital’s (IFH) cardiac catheterization service. The project would add one catheterization laboratory to the seven the hospital now has. The new laboratory would be located within the catheterization service where six of the hospital’s catheterization laboratories are housed.

Projected capital cost is about $6.3 million. All capital costs would be paid from Inova Health System reserves. There would be no direct financing expense.

Examination of the application, in the context of COPN planning requirements, the regional cardiovascular services market, and recent local cardiac catheterization cases and workloads shows:

* Inova Fairfax Hospital’s cardiac catheterization service, the largest and busiest in the state, is used heavily. Average annual caseloads are substantially above the service volume planning guidelines specified in the Virginia State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP).
* There is no excess or unused capacity within Inova Health System that can be called upon to accommodate increasing demand at Inova Fairfax Hospital.
* There is no indication that adding catheterization capacity at Inova Fairfax Hospital

would affect competing services negatively.

* The project is consistent with applicable provisions of the Virginia SMFP, notably the institutional need provision (Section 12VAC5-230-80) of the plan.

Based on these considerations and findings, and on the data and arguments presented in the application, HSANV staff conclude that expansion of the Inova Fairfax Hospital cardiac catheterization service as proposed is consistent with the institutional provision of the Virginia State Medical Facilities Plan (SMFP).

###### Inova Fairfax Hospital Presentation (COPN Request VA-8747)

Elizabeth Breen, Counsel, Inova Health System, introduced herself and other Inova Health Services representatives: Andew Gill, Vice President & Administrator, IHSV, Inova Health System; and Benham Tehrani, MD, Director, Inova Fairfax Hospital Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory.

Breen, Gill, and Tehrani presented the application, focusing on the high use of the Inova Fairfax Hospital cardiac catheterization service. Among other considerations, they emphasized:

* Cardiac catheterization service volumes are increasing steadily at Inova Fairfax. The diagnostic equivalent procedure (DEP) workload is substantially more than the Virginia SMFP target service planning guideline of 1200 DEPs per laboratory annually.
* Demand is increasing more rapidly among complex cases such as trans aortic valve repair (TAVR) and other structural heart cases. These procedures, which often replace (substitute for) open heart surgery, and other structural heart cases required more time to perform.
* There is no unused cardiac catheterization capacity, within or outside Inova Health System, that could be reallocated or otherwise be used to respond to increasing demand at Inova Fairfax Hospital.
* Inova Fairfax Hospital has an institution specific need to add catheterization capacity to respond effectively to current and projected near-term demand.
* The projected capital cost, about $6.3 million, is reasonable.

***Board & Staff Questions, Discussion***

In response to questions, Breen, Gill, and Tehrani indicated:

* With technological advances, and related changes in clinical practice, the cardiac catheterization workload is growing in complexity with longer average procedure times.
* With eight laboratories, average IFH cardiac catheterization lab use is expected above the Virginia SMFP planning guidance of 1200 DEPs per laboratory annually.
* Six of IFH’s cardiac catheterization laboratories are in contiguous space. One is a hybrid operating room/catheterization laboratory in the cardiovascular surgical suite.
* CT angiography (CTA) has advanced to the point that there is a high correlation between a positive CTA scan and the need for a cardiovascular intervention procedure.
* The clinical value of cardiac PET-CT imaging in reducing false positive and false negative catheterization cases remains unclear. Its definitive system effects on cardiac catheterization demand are evolving.
* IFH’s cardiovascular services program is sufficient large and proficient that it can offer emerging technologies and practices as they gain professional recognition.

***Public Comment***

There was no public comment other than the letters of support included in the application.

***Inova Fairfax Hospital Summary Comment***

Breen said that the applicant would forgo a summary presentation. She and her colleagues offered to answer any additional the board might have.

***Staff Recommendation***

Based on the information presented in the agency staff report and on the applicant’s testimony in support of the project, Montgomery recommended approval of the IFH application. Among other considerations, he noted that:

* Inova’s claim of an institution specific need for additional cardiac catheterization capacity at Inova Fairfax Hospital is well documented. There does not appear to be a practical alternative to the project described.
* IFH’s dominant role in the local cardiovascular services market has evolved organically, with considerable public benefit. There is no evident public interest or benefit in limiting its natural growth and development.
* Given the state of the regional cardiovascular services market, and established medical referral patterns, there is no indication that expansion of the IFH cardiac catheterization service would affect other catheterization services negatively.
* Approval of the project would be consistent with the treatment of similar COPN proposals, locally and statewide.

***Board Deliberation and Vote***

Ana Alvarez offered a motion to recommend approval of the application. James Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of thirteen in favor (Alvarez, Carrasco, Deitos, Fonseca, Kincheloe, Lepczyk, Patterson, Raj, Sharpe, Samuelson, Smith, Weber, West) and none opposed.

**VI. Other Business**

The next HSANV board meeting was set for Monday, June 17, 2024, at 7:00 PM.

**VI. Adjourn**

Kincheloe adjourned the meeting at 8:50 P.M.

**Respectfully submitted,**

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**Dean Montgomery**