

VIA E-mail (Hard Copy to Follow)

March 18, 2008

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) for Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center
c/o Steve Sheppard
Department of Neighborhoods, City of Seattle
P.O. Box 94649
Seattle, WA 98124-4649

Dear Citizens Advisory Committee Members:

Thanks again for all your great work on Seattle Children's Hospital new Major Institution Master Plan proposal! I am writing to provide brief updates and respond to a few questions that have come up. Also, attached is a copy of a letter from Dr. Tom Hansen, Children's CEO, along with some background materials that we recently provided to the NE Seattle community, including updates about the master plan process and responses to frequently asked questions.

1. As promised, we have analyzed the proposal received at the last meeting from the Design Criteria Sub-Committee. I would like to again thank the Design Criteria Sub-Committee for their very impressive work on Saturday, February 2. We have developed a modified version of the Sub-Committee's proposal, which would meet our needs for growth of 1.5 million new square feet to accommodate up to a total of 600 beds in the next 15 to 20 years. We are presenting that new alternative to you tonight and look forward to further discussion of this option. We attempted to incorporate the feedback from the full committee regarding the subcommittee work into our analysis and development of this new alternative. I want to reiterate Children's desire that the CAC play a very significant role in shaping the master plan, and heartily thank the Design Criteria Sub-Committee for their leadership role in identifying problems and potential solutions.
2. CAC members requested additional information regarding the needed 4,000 square feet per bed metric. Tonight ZGF, our architects, and my colleague Jan Thompson, RN, will walk you through that number to more fully illustrate its importance and how it is derived. We have analyzed the space distributions of the top ten pediatric hospitals, with particular focus on the new Children's Hospital, Denver. We projected square footage needs by each specific service area and will present these comparisons tonight, showing what is needed for the patient care areas that a typical visitor sees, as well as the space needs for the various essential support functions throughout the hospital.
3. Tonight we will be hearing from Laurelon Terrace about their proposal for Children's expansion. Children's Hospital is very appreciative of the initiatives by the Laurelon Terrace community to offer a solution for the hospital expansion that will be better for our patients and families and better for our neighboring communities. We will outline some of those advantages tonight. Both the City and community members have expressed interest in looking at an option for early development of Laurelon, and we are

very excited and eager to work with the CAC on this option. And, as I indicated at the previous meeting, Children's must contribute to replacement housing if we expand on the Laurelon Terrace property. Children's is firmly committed to meeting all replacement housing requirements and will work closely with the City, Laurelon Terrace, and the community in doing so.

Finally, we continue to see very high patient volumes and experience a shortage of beds. For several days over the past two months we have been operating at 98% capacity. To care for the large number of patients, we have been utilizing our overflow observation area. Our staff continue to do an amazing job during this difficult time to provide safe quality care for every child who needs Children's level of pediatric specialty care. I want to keep you apprised of this situation because I want you to know how much we need and value the work you are doing.

We appreciate your efforts and insights as we continue to work with the CAC, the Laurelhurst Community Club, other surrounding northeast Seattle Community Councils, the broader Seattle community, and the City of Seattle. We believe that by working together we can develop a preferred alternative plan and the mitigation strategies needed to address the impact of Children's growth.

Sincerely,



Ruth Benfield
Vice President for Facilities and Psycho-Social Services
Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center

Attachments:

Packet mailed to northeast Seattle households

- Letter from Tom Hansen, Children's CEO
- Master Plan Q & A
- *"Investing in the Future: Why Children's Needs to Grow"*

cc: Diane Sugimura, Director, Seattle Department of Planning and Development
Stella Chao, Director, Seattle Department of Neighborhoods
Cliff Portman, Principal Planner, Seattle Department of Planning and Development
Scott Ringgold, Planner, Seattle Department of Planning and Development