

TO: Citizen's Advisory Committee
FROM: Ruth Benfield, Vice President for Facilities and Psycho-Services
DATE: October 30, 2007
RE: MIMP -- Certificate of Need questions



There have been some questions about our projections for the number of beds needed over the next 15-20 years, compared to our application for Certificate of Need in 2000.

The previous Certificate of Need (CON) application was based on our best projections in the late 1990s. However, immediately upon opening the Janet Sinegal Patient Care Building we found that we were consistently beyond the expected average occupancy capacity presented to the Department of Health. Our intention had been -- and continues to be -- to run the hospital as all single rooms, only using the second bed in our double rooms at peak census. We are rarely in a situation to be able to do that.

Furthermore, we have added significant medical resource to our community through the addition of a number of advanced programs and technologies, such as our transplant programs and interventional cardiac programs. Our current average occupancy is 94% if we consider all of our rooms as single rooms. The projection for needed beds in 1998 was simply too low, even though it was the best estimate at the time. With the regional and national data available on pediatric health care, it clearly indicates that our current projection of 600 beds is reasonable and our next CON will reflect only Phase One of our MIMP.