



Delaware Health Resources Board Meeting

November 20, 2025

2:00 p.m.

Meeting Attendance and Minutes

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Leighann Hinkle Vice Chair, John Hundley, JoAnn Seppelt, Cheryl Heiks, Dr. Vincent Lobo, Pamela Price, Charles "Chip" Walters Jr., Timothy "Tim" Gibbs, Margaret "Peggy" Strine

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Brett Fallon Chair

HEALTH RESOURCES BOARD STAFF PRESENT: Latoya Wright (Manager Statistics and Research) Patrick Smith (Deputy Attorney General, DOJ)

CALL TO ORDER

Leighann Hinkle, Vice Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 p.m.

ACTION

October 23 MEETING MINUTES

The October 23 meeting minutes were reviewed. JoAnn Seppelt made a motion to approve the minutes. John Hundley seconded the motion. No opposing. Leighann Hinkle and Tim Gibbs abstained. Motion carried. The minutes were approved.

CHRISTIANACARE PET/CT SCANNERS CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC REVIEW APPLICATION

ChristianaCare submitted an application to purchase new radiation therapy equipment, Varian TrueBeam. After the presentation, the Board will have the opportunity to ask questions. The Board will review and vote on the application. Representatives from ChristianaCare presented their proposal to the Board. ChristianaCare presented a proposal for a new radiation oncology suite featuring the advanced Varian TrueBeam linear accelerator at the Middletown Health Center, a new medical campus under construction. The presentation highlighted the growing cancer incidence in Delaware, specifically in the rapidly expanding Middletown area, termed a "radiation desert" due to lack of local treatment options. The center aims to expand access to high-quality cancer care closer to patients' homes, reducing travel burdens and improving treatment adherence. The project represents a collaboration between Christiana Care and the

Radiation Oncology practice (ROPA), with a projected capital investment of approximately \$13.8 million, fully funded by cash. The center will be outpatient-focused and integrated with other oncology services such as chemotherapy and surgical oncology. The projected patient volumes are starting with approximately 310 patients and 6,000 treatment visits in year one, growing to over 350 patients and nearly 7,000 visits by year three. The anticipated opening is May 2027.

The full presentation for ChristianaCare is posted on the Health Resources Board website. The Board deliberated on the seven criteria.

Conformity of Project with Review Criteria

Criterion I: The relationship of the proposal to the Health Resources Management Plan.

The Board received clarification from ChristianaCare regarding care setting. It was noted radiation therapy is provided in both hospital and freestanding outpatient settings; the Middletown facility will be outpatient only.

Action

The Board unanimously agreed the application met criterion I.

Criterion II: The need of the population for the proposed project.

The Board discussed the unmet need in Middletown and rising demand based on demographic trends and cancer incidences.

Action

The Board unanimously agreed the application met criterion II.

Criterion III: The availability of less costly and/or more effective alternatives to the proposal, including alternatives involving the use of resources located outside the State of Delaware.

The Board discussed the alternatives available. It was stated the alternatives are a great distance away and having patients and their families traveling long distances for access to care can be a burden.

Action

The Board unanimously agreed the application met criterion III.

Criterion IV: The relationship of the proposal to the existing health care delivery system.

The Board noted the Middletown facility will provide state of the art treatment. The Middletown location is a great opportunity to expand to a demographic need. The Board expressed appreciation that the facility will be connected to other ChristianaCare locations for continuum of care. It was noted that ChristianaCare is integrated with the existing healthcare delivery system.

Action

The Board unanimously agreed the application met criterion IV.

Criterion V: The immediate and long-term viability of the proposal in terms of the applicant's access to financial, management and other necessary resources.

The Board noted the Middletown location has the staffing and necessary financial resources to remain viable.

Action

The Board unanimously agreed the application met criterion V.

Criterion VI The anticipated effect of the proposal on the costs of and charges of healthcare.

It was stated freestanding outpatient settings are expected to reduce costs compared to hospital outpatient settings. The Board requested quantification of cost savings in which the applicant agreed to provide that information.

Action

The Board unanimously agreed the application met criterion VI.

Criterion VII: The anticipated effect of the proposal on the quality of health care.

ChristianaCare holds Joint Commission accreditation and program excellence recognition; they will maintain high standards and seek Medicare/Medicaid accreditation.

Action

The Board unanimously agreed the application met criterion VII.

Vote of the Application

The Board unanimously agreed to approve ChristianaCare's application to acquire TrueBeam medical equipment.

SUSSEX PAIN RELIEF CENTER ONE YEAR PROGRESS UPDATE

The Board approved Sussex Pain Relief Center's application in 2024 to convert their existing facility to a freestanding surgery center. The progress report provides a timeline of key activities that took place since the Board's approval. In September-October 2025, design development and construction documents were completed. Applications were submitted to the State Fire Marshall's office and to DHSS for blueprints. Sussex Pain Relief center expects to receive a notice to proceed by November 2025. This information is in alignment with the application.

Action

The Board unanimously determined sufficient progress has been made since the Sussex Pain Relief Center application was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.