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RV2023-022

RECEIVED

May 05 2023

STATE HEALTH PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

May 5, 2023

James F. Henry
Partner
jim.henry@phelps.com
Direct (205) 716-5257

Via Electronic Filing

Honorable Emily Marsal
Executive Director
State Health Planning and Development Agency
100 North Union Street, Suite 870
Montgomery, AL 36104
Shpda.online@shpda.alabama.gov

Re: Request for Reviewability Determination
North Mississippi Medical Center - Hamilton

Dear Ms. Marsal,

Our firm represents Marion Regional Medical Center, Inc., d/b/a North Mississippi Medical Center - Hamilton ("NMMC"), which is a 49 bed general acute care hospital located at 1268 Military Street South, Hamilton, Alabama 35570. NMMC is a subsidiary of North Mississippi Health Services Inc., which offers a broad range of high quality inpatient and ambulatory care services through its 109 locations in Mississippi and Alabama. Among the suite of services that NMMC currently offers are emergency and trauma care; children's therapy; hospital medicine; imaging and radiology; lab services; surgery; and others.

This letter is to request a determination that NMMC's intended renovation of its Emergency Department is exempt from Certificate of Need ("CON") review under the State Health Planning and Development Agency ("SHPDA") rules and regulations.

The purpose of NMMC's proposed project is to reconfigure and modernize its Emergency Department in a manner that creates a more efficient workflow and a safer environment for patients and staff members by employing design lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic. A key element of this project will be the creation of two straight parallel corridors with a single connecting corridor, which will provide convenient access to all areas in the Emergency Department and eliminate currently sequestered areas.

Admitting, triage, and patient treatment areas will be located primarily on the front corridor of the Emergency Department, with non-patient care areas located primarily on the rear corridor. This will provide a more efficient workflow for clinicians and improved infection control. All areas of the Emergency Department will be more easily accessible due to this simplified configuration. The project will include design work, reconfiguration of walls and openings, concrete work, wifi connectivity, plumbing, HVAC, fire suppression, thermal and moisture protection, and finish work, among other things. Copies of the existing floor plan and the floor plan after renovations are attached hereto and made a part hereof as "Exhibit A" and "Exhibit B", respectively.

This proposed project:

- a) will not change NMMC's existing service area;
- b) will not involve offering any new or additional services to those currently being offered by NMMC; and
- c) will not involve any change to NMMC's licensed bed capacity through the addition, relocation, or conversion of any beds.

There are no persons or entities holding financial interests in NMMC other than North Mississippi Health Services Inc, as the sole member (owner) of NMMC.

The financial scope of the project will not exceed the current CON review spending thresholds of \$3,241,543.00 for major medical equipment, \$1,296,615 for new annual operating costs, or \$6,483,085.00 for capital expenditures.

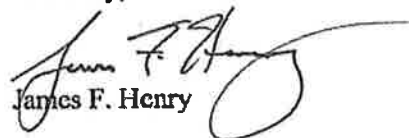
The total cost of NMMC's project will be as follows:

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| <u>Equipment Cost:</u> | \$ - 0 - |
| <u>1st year incremental annual operating cost:</u> | \$ - 0 - |
| <u>Capital Costs:</u> | |
| i. Leases: | \$ - 0 - |
| ii. Land/Building Costs: | \$ - 0 - |
| iii. Construction Cost: | \$ 1,490,000.00 |

Based on the above, NMMC respectfully requests that SHPDA issue a determination of non-reviewability for the above-described project.

A payment of \$1,000 for the required filing fee is being submitted today. If you have any questions, please contact me. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


James F. Henry

cc: Bruce Toppin, Esq.
Chief Legal Officer, Secretary, and Privacy Officer
North Mississippi Health Services Inc.
830 S. Gloster St.
Tupelo, MS 38801
Office: 662-377-4229
Cell: 662-213-4043
btoppin@nmhs.net

[Affirmation of Requesting Party is on Following Page]

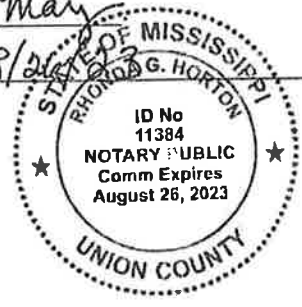
Honorable Emily Marsal
Executive Director
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Affirmation of Requesting Party:

The undersigned, being first duly sworn, hereby makes oath or affirms that he is Bruce Toppin, Chief Legal Officer, Secretary, and Privacy Officer of North Mississippi Health Services, Inc., parent corporation of Marion Regional Medical Center, Inc., and has knowledge of the facts in this request, and to the best of his information, knowledge, and belief, such facts are true and correct.

Affiant *Bruce Toppin* (SEAL)

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 4th day of May
Rhonda G. Horton My commission expires 8/26/23
Notary Public





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Re: RV2023-022
Marion Regional Medical Center, Inc. d/b/a North Mississippi Medical Center-Hamilton

Dear Ms. Marsal,

This letter responds to your May 11, 2023 letter for additional information regarding the above-referenced Reviewability Determination Request.

1. Attached as "Exhibit A" is a copy of the existing floor plan for the Emergency Department and attached as "Exhibit B" is a copy of the Emergency Department floor plan after renovations. These were inadvertently omitted from the original Reviewability Determination Request.
2. There will be no change to the service area as a result of this project. The service area will continue to be Marion County, Alabama.
3. After renovation, the total square footage of the Emergency Department will be unchanged. The renovated space will still have 2 operating rooms, 1 trauma room with 2 bays, and 1 recovery room.

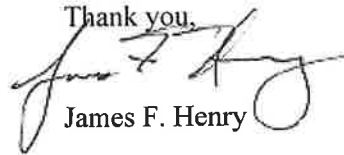
Currently, there are 2 exam rooms and an open bay that is used as a 3rd exam room. This will become 3 actual rooms, labeled as treatment rooms. A triage room will be added, and a holding room will be added for the operating suite.

The renovated design includes support spaces for breaks, storage, and waiting. These spaces may not be built-out initially, but may be added in later phases.

The area identified in the existing floor plan as a dark room and a dictation room are currently vacant. This area was formerly the radiology suite, which was relocated during the hospital's expansion in 2005. After renovation, the physician dictation room will be relocated so that it is adjacent to the nurses' station.

Honorable Emily Marsal
Executive Director
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I trust that this is responsive to the Agency's questions. If you need anything additional, I will be glad to provide it.

Thank you,

James F. Henry

cc: Bruce Toppin, Esq.
Chief Legal Officer, Secretary, and Privacy Officer
North Mississippi Health Services Inc.
830 S. Gloster St.
Tupelo, MS 38801
Office: 662-377-4229
Cell: 662-213-4043

Exhibit A

Existing Floor Plan

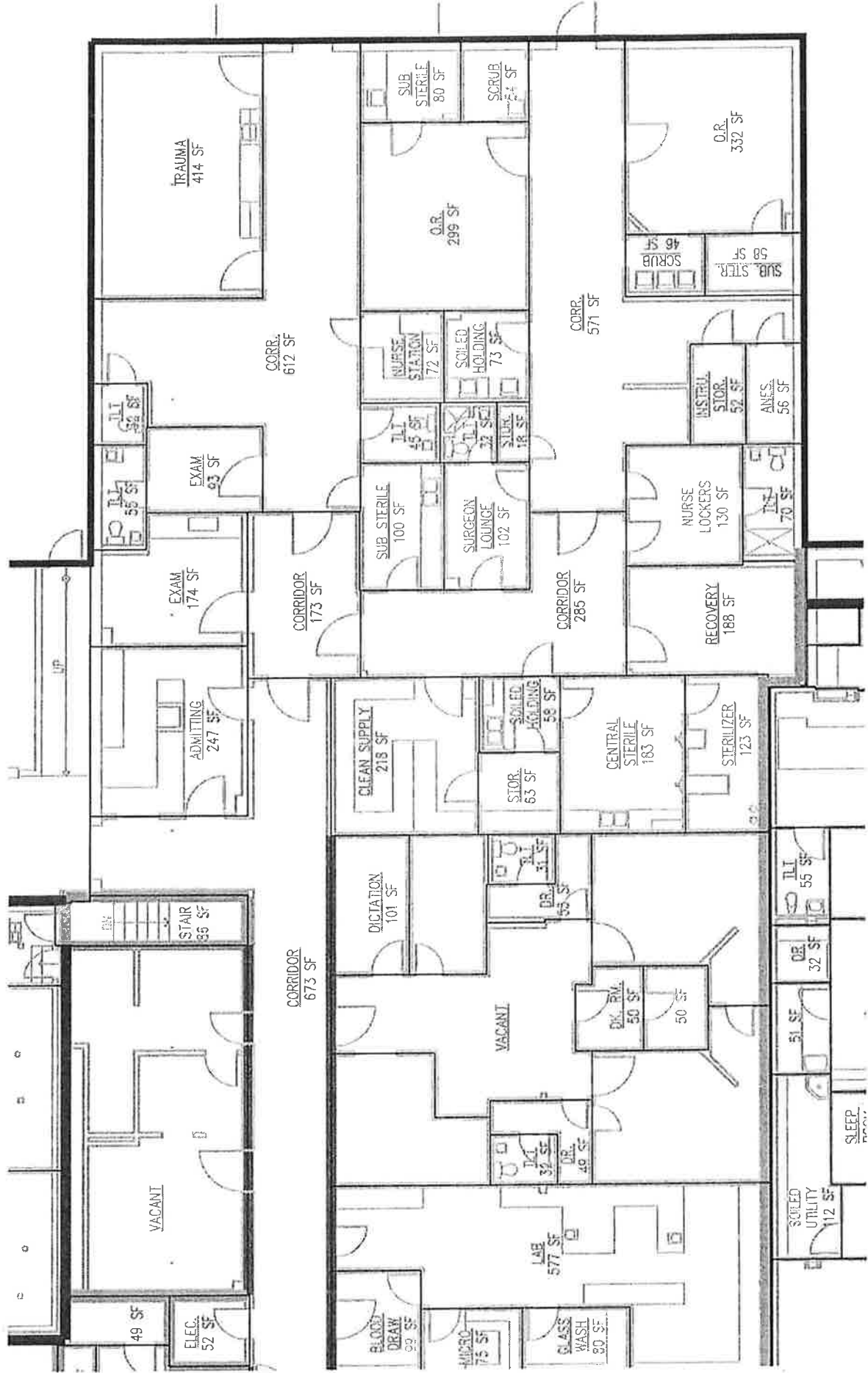


Exhibit B

Renovation Plan

