

JAN 13 2004 *md/ala*

Resolution

2004-M-02

of the

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Approving the

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CENTRAL FLORIDA TRAUMA CENTER TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, Orlando Regional Medical Center ("ORMC") has been providing Level I trauma care at the only Level I trauma center in Central Florida, the Chatlos Center for Trauma Care, to residents of Orange, Osceola, Lake, Seminole and Sumter (the "Five-County Region"), as well as to patients from many other counties in Florida and visitors from other states and nations, for more than twenty years; and

WHEREAS, Level I trauma care is a state of readiness and the delivery of urgently needed care. It is the condition where highly trained trauma surgeons and physician specialists, nurses, and facilities are standing by and ready, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, to care for severely injured, often life-threatening trauma victims. This state of readiness and the delivery of trauma care is of vital importance to the citizens and businesses in the Five-County Region; and

WHEREAS, in February 2003, the neurosurgeons then taking "trauma call" informed ORMC that they would stop taking trauma call at the trauma center. ORMC persuaded the neurosurgeons to continue to take trauma call only by offering a substantially increased fee to compensate them for trauma call and paying new or increased fees to other physician specialists as compensation for trauma call as well; and

WHEREAS, the additional fees were funded approximately 45% by ORMC, 33% by Orange County, 10% by Osceola County, 10% by the hospitals in Lake County, and 2% by Sumter county. However, ORMC and the four participating counties have committed funding sufficient to pay the increased fees to the specialists only through September 30, 2004; and

WHEREAS, if permanent funding of the fees and other readiness costs of the trauma center is not secured in the coming months, there is no reason to expect that the neurosurgeons and the other specialized physicians will continue to take trauma call on or after October 1, 2004. If these surgeons and other specialists refuse to provide trauma care, then the trauma center at ORMC will not be able to meet the state mandated requirements to provide Level I trauma care; and

WHEREAS, losing Level I trauma care and its constant state of readiness at the Chatlos Center for Trauma Care at ORMC would result in increased mortalities for trauma victims and would have far-reaching effects in Orange County; and

WHEREAS, the Central Florida Trauma Center Task Force, a group of 23 community leaders, government officials, and health-care experts convened by the five chairs of the legislative delegations for the Five-County Region, spent some six weeks studying the problem and reviewing the community's options; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force has rendered to the five legislative delegations and to the five county commissions a set of recommendations to address the issue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA:

1. The Board of County Commissioners accepts and approves the recommendations rendered by the Central Florida Trauma Center Task Force.
2. Pursuant to the Task Force recommendations, the Board of County Commissioners specifically urges the Legislature of the state of Florida to:
 - a. Recognize trauma care as an issue of statewide concern and an integral, indispensable part of the statewide health care system and, therefore, to provide full state funding for all Level I, Level II and pediatric trauma centers in Florida. If the state will not fully fund the state trauma system, this Board supports legislation that would mandate state participation in a matching fund arrangement as outlined in the Task Force recommendations.
 - b. Examine the viability of aligning the state's nineteen trauma service areas more closely with the seven Florida Domestic Security Taskforce Boundaries.
3. Pursuant to the Task Force recommendations, the Board of County Commissioners urges the Five-County Region legislative delegation to sponsor and support legislation authorizing local revenue-generating options for counties to fund trauma care.
4. This resolution is a declaration of only the current intent and expectation of the Board of County Commissioners. Orange County will be contractually committed and legally bound to participate in trauma-readiness costs only if, and when, and to the extent the Board approves, executes, and delivers at a later date an appropriate agreement governing the matter.

Adopted by the Board on the 13th day of January, 2004.

Orange County, Florida
By: Board of County Commissioners

By: Richard T. Crotty
Richard T. Crotty
for Orange County Chairman

Attest: Martha O. Haynie, County Comptroller
As Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

BY: [Signature]
Deputy Clerk

DATE: JAN 13 2004

