

Wesley Chapel Hospital

## **University Community Health System Seeks to Establish Short Term Acute Care Hospital through a Joint Venture with Major Regional Health System**



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### ***Situation***

University Community Health (UCH), a dominant healthcare system in Hillsborough County, retained NHA to prepare a Certificate of Need application to develop a Class I 80-bed acute care hospital in Wesley Chapel, Pasco County, Florida with the purpose of enhancing access to hospital services and healthcare resources to residents of this bedroom community to Tampa.

### ***Solution***

NHA participated in the formation of a landmark collaboration between UCH and Adventist Health System Sunbelt Corporation (Adventist), the Parent Corporation of Florida Hospital, the largest healthcare provider in Central Florida with one of its hospitals in eastern Pasco County. UCH and Adventist collaborated to form Pasco-Pinellas Hillsborough Community Health System, Inc. and jointly applied for a Certificate of Need in Wesley Chapel. The project proposed to develop an 80-bed acute care facility to address the growing demand for hospital based services in the area.

Through the collaboration of Sponsoring Members of the project, information provided by a land use planning and engineering firm, travel time studies, population forecasts, historical and forecasted hospital utilization in the area and discussions with Pasco County leadership, NHA determined there to be a need for a Wesley Chapel hospital. NHA concluded the Wesley Chapel service area would experience a rapidly growing population and the hospital access limitations for hospital services would only worsen in the coming decade. To support NHA's conclusion of geographic access problems to existing hospitals for the Wesley Chapel population, a travel time study was compiled by a land use planning and engineering firm which revealed excessive travel times to existing hospital services primarily outside Pasco County. Of significance, it was determined the existing and planned roadway infrastructure, coupled with abnormally high population growth, would only make travel to existing hospitals more difficult in the future.

Aside from improving geographic access, NHA determined the Wesley Chapel hospital will improve programmatic access to area residents. Specifically, the hospital will enhance much needed access to emergency care and obstetrics services. Aside from need based on geographic and programmatic accessibility, 90 letters of support were compiled from area physicians, including the service area's largest multi-specialty practice, expressing the need for hospital services in Wesley Chapel, Pasco County, Florida.

### **SOLUTION OVERVIEW**

#### **Customer Profile**

University Community Health is a not for profit healthcare system with four hospital locations throughout the Tampa Bay area.

#### **Business Situation**

Hospital sizing, programmatic analyses, and feasibility analyses needed to support a new acute care hospital in its regulatory process, facing competing projects.

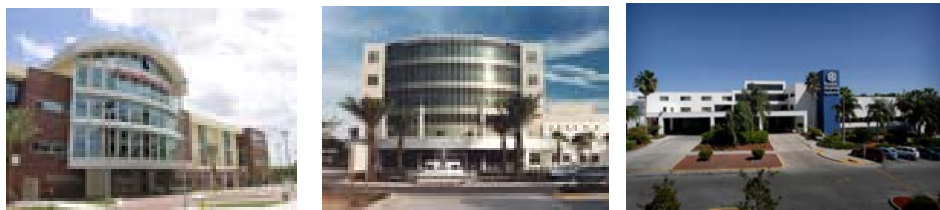
#### **Solution**

NHA participated in the collaboration of two leading health care providers to form the joint venture. Conducted population, geographic and programmatic analyses. Successfully prepared and filed the CON application.

#### **Benefits**

- Approval of an 80-bed non-tertiary hospital with obstetrics services;
- Enhanced access to emergency care, non-tertiary hospital services and obstetrics services for residents of service area;
- Improved market positioning of Health System;
- Collaboration of previously competing healthcare systems for the benefit of community

The Wesley Chapel Hospital's CON application was opposed by the co-batched applicant, BayCare of Southeast Pasco, Inc. (BayCare). BayCare submitted its CON application to develop a Class I 130-bed acute care hospital in Wesley Chapel. That applicant was preliminarily denied by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) while the CON application submitted by Pasco-Pinellas Hillsborough Community Health Systems was preliminarily approved by AHCA. BayCare challenged AHCA's decision and the case was heard by the Florida Division of Administrative Hearings (DOAH) in 2008. Ultimately, on January 6, 2009, AHCA's preliminary decision was upheld by DOAH, to deny BayCare's application and approve the landmark joint venture project proposed by Pasco-Pinellas Hillsborough Community Health System. The hospital is currently in the design phase with construction expected to commence in 2010.



***For More Information***

For more information about NHA services, call our offices at (305) 444-5007. To access information using the internet, go to: <http://www.nhaconsulting.com/>

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