

Lee County Hospital Authority

Southwest Virginia Health Authority Meeting

Access to Health Care

5.25.16

A Fateful Day

On September 18, 2013 Wellmont Health Systems announced that Lee Regional Medical Center would close its doors on September 30th and cease all operations by October 1, 2013.



LEE
COUNTY
HOSPITAL
AUTHORITY



Hospital Closing

Wellmont Health Systems cited these 3 major points in the explanation of the Hospital closing:

“Reimbursement cuts associated with the Affordable Care Act...”

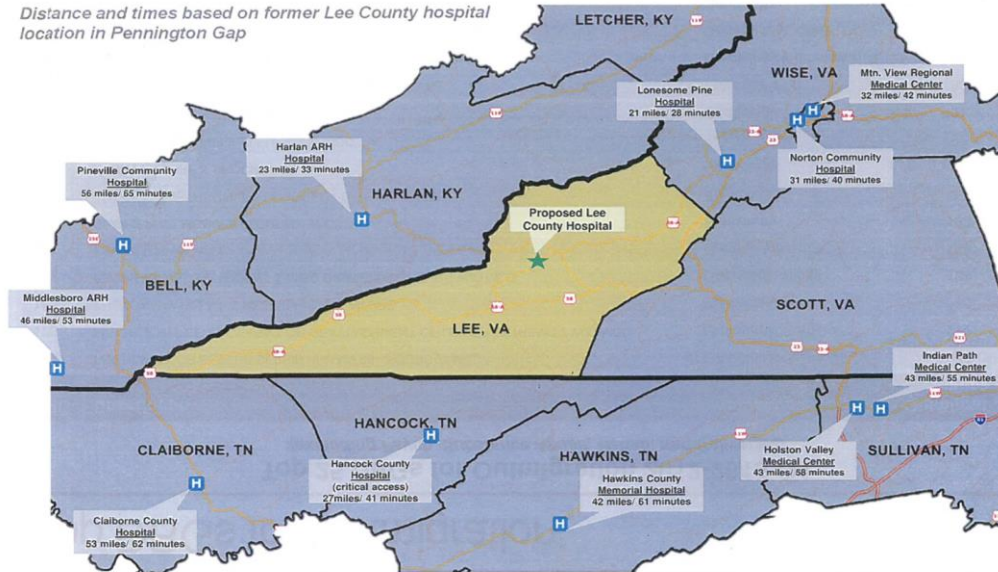
“Extremely low community use of the hospital...”

“Lack of consistent physician coverage...”

Impact of Closing: Travel to other Facilities

Area Hospital Mileage/Drive Time Map

Distance and times based on former Lee County hospital location in Pennington Gap



Mileage/Travel Time Source: Mapquest

- The closest hospital to Lee County is Lonesome Pine Hospital is 21 miles away through mountainous terrain.
- Residents from Lee County seeking ancillary services now must travel outside of the county over an hour away to Kingsport Tennessee.
- EMS 911 response agencies rely on volunteers in the county and the turnaround time can now exceed 2 hours since ambulances must now travel well out of their responsible territory.
- Loss of Jobs

Impact of Closing: EMS Travel Time

EMS 911 response agencies rely on volunteers in the county and the turnaround time can now exceed 2 hours since ambulances must now travel well out of their responsible territory



Impact of Closing: Travel for Health Care

- With the closing of the hospital Lee County residents had to find other places to go to receive care.

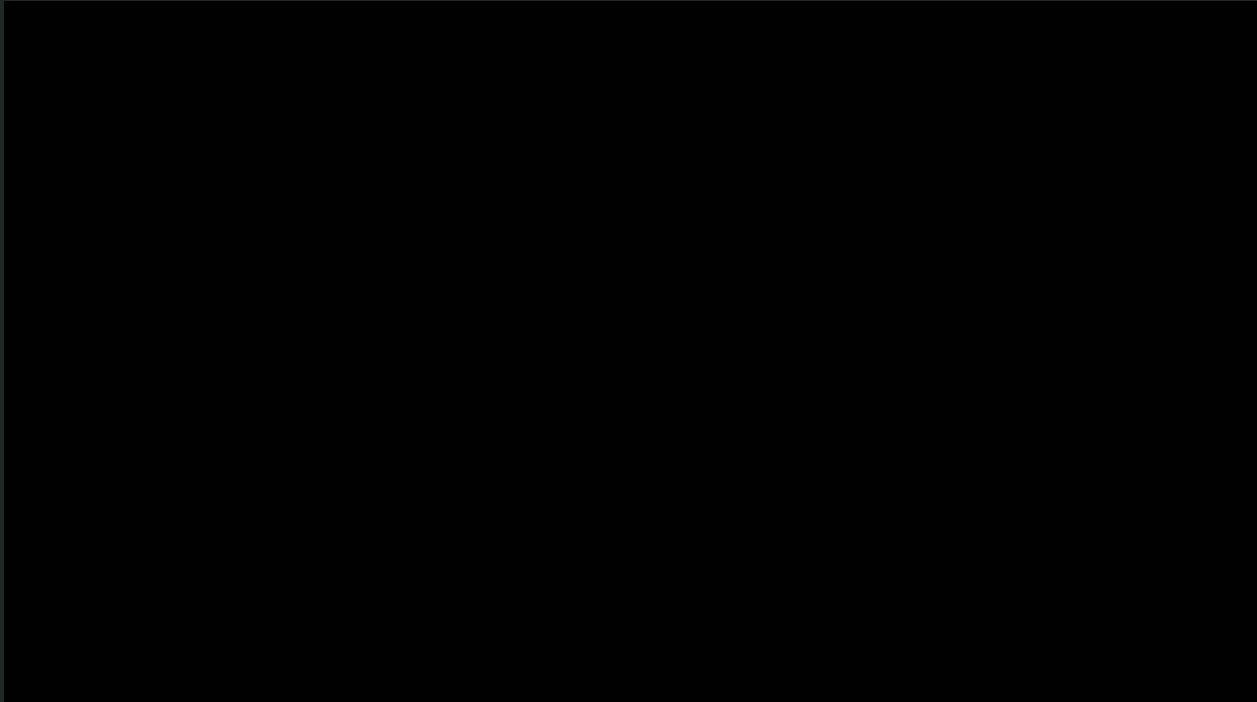
Patient Outmigration - Top 5 Product Lines

1. Pulmonary
2. General Medicine
3. Cardiology
4. Orthopedics
5. Gastroenterology



On the people of Lee County, Virginia

(sound from the Certificate of Public Need Hearing on October 8, 2014)



Listen to the Community's reaction to the closing of the Hospital.

A National Trend: Rural Hospitals Closing

Since 2010, 57 rural hospitals have closed.

**For the purposes of its analysis, the NCRHRP defined a hospital closure as the cessation in the provision of inpatient services. Although all of the facilities listed below no longer provide inpatient care, many of them still offer services, including outpatient care, imaging, emergency care, urgent care, primary care or skilled nursing and rehabilitation services.*



This map illustrates the 57 rural hospitals that have closed since 2010. In expansion states, 8.5% of rural hospitals are vulnerable to closure. Whereas in non-expansion states, that number nearly doubles to 16.5%.

Source: Becker's Hospital Review
And <http://www.shepscenter.unc.edu/programs-projects/rural-health/rural-hospital-closures/>

*** 3 CAH hospitals that have closed have Re-opened.

LEE
COUNTY
HOSPITAL
AUTHORITY



Lee County Responds

Lee County Hospital Authority Formed

April 15, 2014

Lee County Hospital Authority Purchased Building

April 29, 2015

Critical Access Hospital: Community Needs Assessment
Community Advisory Committee Meeting #1

September 30, 2015

Granted Certificate of Public Need

November 6, 2015

Critical Access Hospital: Community Needs Assessment
Community Advisory Committee Meeting #2

November 12, 2015

Critical Access Hospital: Community Needs Assessment
Community Advisory Committee Meeting #3

December 7, 2015

Impact of Potential Merger

Lee County does not want to get lost in the process.

**Better
Together**



LEE
COUNTY
HOSPITAL
AUTHORITY



Virginia Code: Cooperative Agreement and Access

A hospital may negotiate and enter into proposed cooperative agreements with other hospitals in the Commonwealth if the likely benefits resulting from the proposed cooperative agreements outweigh any disadvantages attributable to a reduction in competition that may result from the proposed cooperative agreements. Benefits to such a cooperative agreement may include, but are not limited to, **improving access to care**, advancing health status, targeting regional health issues, promoting technological advancement, ensuring accountability of the cost of care, enhancing academic engagement in regional health, strengthening the workforce for health-related careers, and improving health entity collaboration and regional integration where appropriate.

Code of Virginia Section 15-2-5384.1(B)

Request

Consider Access: Lee County

We request you seek a commitment to maintaining a health care facility in Lee County and a commitment on what services will be provided at that facility.

Presenters

Ms. Melanie Jorgensen-Virginia Organizing

Ms. Jill Carson-Virginia Organizing

Mr. Howard Elliot-Lee County Hospital Authority

Mr. Gary Parsons-Sheriff of Lee County