



**San Juan County Public Hospital District #1 /
PeaceHealth**

FAQs: Feasibility Assessment Process

Since January, 2008, a detailed study has been underway to gather information which will be needed by the Boards of both the Hospital District and PeaceHealth to determine whether it is reasonable to pursue a long-term relationship agreement. The goal of entering into a long-term relationship would be to provide expanded healthcare to the San Juan Island community through an integrated medical center, which would offer clinic, outpatient and some inpatient services. The new facility would be designated by the State of Washington as a Critical Access Hospital. The process of gathering all the necessary data has been careful and extensive. The following information is provided to answer some questions regarding how this feasibility study was undertaken.

How was the study process organized?

The work of the study was undertaken by two committees: a Steering Committee and a Planning Committee. The Steering Committee was composed of five members from PeaceHealth and the San Juan Community Hospital Committee (SJCHC); an additional seven members included personnel from the InterIsland Medical Center (IIMC), the Hospital District Board, and several community members who served in an advisory capacity. The Planning Committee included members from the Hospital District Board, PeaceHealth, the SJCHC, the IIMC, and consultants who specialize in rural healthcare services and facilities. An Assessment Team drew up the final report and recommendations.

What did the committees do?

The Steering Committee was responsible for developing the guidelines and assumptions under which the study was done. It discussed policy issues, procedural and coordination questions, and oversaw the work of the Planning Committee.

The Planning Committee was broken down into five areas of special study, and a working group assumed responsibility for each area. The five areas included: demographics and potential market for services on the Island; clinical services and staffing; facilities development; financial modeling; and integration and synergy issues if the District and PeaceHealth were to develop a formal relationship.

How was the work done?

Each group was responsible for gathering all relevant information on its area of concern and developing, organizing, and providing an analysis of the essential data. The general approach was to do conservative studies which focused not on the absolute ideal or a “wish list” of services, financial models, etc., but which represented the most realistic estimates and data available that would fit the Island needs and resources.

How do we know that the data are reliable and not just manufactured to give a predetermined outcome?

All of the estimates were done based on historic and current IIMC usage statistics, statistics from State of Washington Department of Health and other state agencies, data on San Juan County residents who have been inpatients at off-island hospitals, and according to national standards and formulas appropriate to the subject. The specific standards or guidelines used to develop each focus area of the data presented in the report are cited in detail.

What is the product of this feasibility study?

The first and major phase of the study was undertaken to determine whether further investigation of a possible long-term relationship is warranted. A report detailing the information and conclusions of this study will be presented to the Boards of the Hospital District and PeaceHealth in May and June 2008, with a recommendation from the Assessment Team as to whether the project should be pursued. The Boards will then consider the information and recommendation, gather input from the Island community, and separately vote on whether to continue work toward a long-term agreement to undertake the integrated medical center project.

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