

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2004 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-16-2004

Proposed by Council Members Knotts and Dean

Introduced by Council Members Knotts, Dean, Harrington, Dernoga, Exum and Peters

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction March 2, 2004

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Dimensions Healthcare Systems, Inc.

3 For the purpose of articulating the position of the County Council regarding support of
 4 Dimensions Healthcare Systems, Inc. and the Memorandum of Understanding between the
 5 County and the State of Maryland.

6 WHEREAS, the County Council fully understands the importance of issues surrounding the
 7 fiscal stability of the Dimensions Healthcare System, Inc. (Dimensions Healthcare) and the
 8 delivery of adequate healthcare services to the citizens of Prince George's County; and

9 WHEREAS, the County Council must exercise the fiduciary responsibilities assigned to
 10 the Council in the County Charter; and

11 WHEREAS, the County Council also serves as the Board of Health with an obligation to
 12 establish and monitor health policies in the County; and

13 WHEREAS, on November 25, 2003, the County Council, in partnership with the County
 14 Executive, enacted CB-98-2003, to provide for an immediate cash infusion of \$5 Million to
 15 stabilize the fiscal situation of Dimensions Healthcare and stands ready, as an essential and
 16 critical member of the Dimensions Healthcare "turnaround team," and a co-equal branch of
 17 government, to continue an active and appropriate role in planning, funding, and overseeing
 18 appropriate corrective action; and

19 WHEREAS, Maryland Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. and County Executive Jack B.
 20 Johnson have negotiated and executed a Memorandum of Understanding to formulate a Financial
 21 Action Plan and to provide for an additional layer of oversight for Dimensions Healthcare in an
 22 effort to preserve the financially strapped Prince George's Hospital Center; and

1 WHEREAS, the County Council has regrettably not been afforded an opportunity to
 2 participate in the formation of the Memorandum of Understanding and the Financial Action Plan
 3 and based upon understanding of the agreement obtained from several different sources, has
 4 identified several specific issues of concern to be addressed before the Council will consider
 5 additional funding requests for the benefit of Dimensions Healthcare; and

6 WHEREAS, any appropriation of funds contained in the agreement is subject to an
 7 affirming vote from the County Council for final approval; and

8 WHEREAS, the County Council is anxious to see the fiscal crisis affecting Dimensions
 9 Healthcare, which has negatively affected the public health, safety and welfare of our citizens,
 10 resolved in a timely manner; and

11 WHEREAS, the County Council encourages a timely resolution to the concerns of the
 12 Council prior to any request for further appropriations to be approved by the Council;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
 14 County, Maryland, that the County Executive is requested to provide the following information
 15 to the Council as soon as possible:

16 ● A briefing regarding the budget implications of a \$10 million grant in the current fiscal
 17 year (FY'04), and a \$5 million grant over the next four Fiscal Years, Fy'05 – '08 totaling \$20
 18 million.

19 ● The short term and long-term impact of such proposed expenditures upon the hospital
 20 system and its bond rating.

21 ● The impact of such proposed expenditures upon other County priorities and the
 22 County's bond rating.

23 ● Clarification regarding the reported obligation to provide \$10 million from County
 24 funds in FY 2004. The Council authorized a grant of \$5 million in CB-98-2003. The Council
 25 seeks clarification of the source of the additional funds and whether the additional \$5 million is a
 26 grant or a loan.

27 ● A specified role for the County Council, beyond annual budget approval, as detailed in
 28 the agreement between the County and the State, including , but not limited to, provisions for the
 29 appointment of a representative of the Council's choosing to the oversight committee.

30 ● Delineation of the Council's authority to conduct oversight, monitor, and/or ensure
 31 compliance, including access to the full, non-redacted interim reports and the complete Final

1 Recovery/Restructuring Plan.

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council, sitting as the Board of Health, will
3 convene a meeting on Tuesday, March 9, 2004, at 10:30 a.m. to discuss with the County
4 Executive or his representatives, the Governor or his representatives, the Dimensions Healthcare
5 Board of Directors, and other experts, the issues set forth herein and other concerns related to the
6 health of Dimensions Healthcare and the impact of the MOU between the County and the State
7 on this system.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that absent satisfactory responses to the Council's
9 concerns, the Council does not intend to authorize further appropriations for Dimensions
10 Healthcare.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the County Council shall provide a copy
12 of this resolution to the Governor, the County Executive, the Board of Directors of Dimensions
13 Healthcare, Ernst & Young, the Chair of the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee, the Chairs of
14 the House and Senate Delegations for the County, the Secretary of the Maryland Department of
15 Health and Mental Hygiene and the Chairman of the Health Services Cost Review Commission.

16 Adopted this 2nd day of March, 2004.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Tony Knotts
Chairman

ATTEST:

Redis C. Floyd
Clerk of the Council