

# History of Davie County Hospital Mocksville, North Carolina

Hospital planning in Davie County began as early as 1947 when residual trust money from the estate of George T. Brown, late President of Brown-Williamson Tobacco Company, was earmarked for a hospital. An organizational meeting of civic leaders was held in January of 1953, and by the fall of that year the first Board of Trustees was working closely with the architect, William Moore Weber of Raleigh to plan the structure.

Members of that first Board, J. K. Sheek, Ted Junker, Buelah Appeson, B. T. Browder, Vernon Miller, Virginia Rowland, R. L. Seaford, Claude Cartner and J. D. Reavis worked diligently to secure additional funding from such sources as Federal Hill-Burton Funds, State Medical Care Commission grants, the Duke Endowment and local bond monies. Citizen support was high, as evidenced by the attendance of 2,000 (from a population of 16,000) at the groundbreaking and the many monetary gifts given to the project. It is interesting to note the county was also building many other public facilities at the same time: a new high school, health department, and county office building.

During the Dedication Ceremony, February 19, 1956, keys to the completed building were turned over to Board Chairman J. K. Sheek by the three member Board of County Commissioners, R. P. Martin, J. M. Groce and C. R. Carter through the County Attorney, A. T. Grant. The first Administrator was Frank Ceruzzi.

Davie County Hospital opened its doors to admit the first patient on March 1, 1956. At that time the facility housed 30 beds, most of which were semi-private rather than the usual multi-bed wards. Room rates were \$12.00 per day for private and \$9.00 per day for semi-private rooms. The first operating budget totaled \$141,000 and capital equipment budget was \$6,000.

The 1965 expansion added 29 new beds, a new operating suite and expanded other support areas. The new addition was dedicated on September 12, 1965. The rest of the decade saw an expansion in services and by 1970, public discussion about physical expansion was underway. During 1973 - 74, more construction occurred to include a new obstetric department, expanded radiology and laboratory space, Intensive Coronary Care unit, and addition of beds to bring the total licensed bed capacity to 81.

During the late 1970's a trend toward more outpatient procedures was beginning, however the impetus toward outpatient care hit in a major way during the early 1980's because Medicare instituted a new method of health care payment to hospitals. This new system pushed all hospitals toward lower inpatient volumes and higher use of outpatient services. Two major services were developed to offset the declining inpatient revenue. A Community Alternatives Program to coordinate care of the elderly and disabled in their own homes and an Occupational Health Service to provide health related services to local business and industry were initiated during 1985.

The last half of this decade revolved around strategies to manage the declining revenue while continuing to offer services needed in the community. Competition with hospitals in surrounding counties was evident. At one point hospital leaders felt a new building closer to the interstate highway would be the answer. Voters turned down the idea and the County Commissioners dealt with the issue by seeking proposals to lease the facility to a larger hospital. The county maintains ownership of the building, but the operational problems would become those of Carolina Mediacorp Inc., parent corporation of Forsyth Memorial and Medical Park Hospitals. This lease took effect January 1, 1992.

On January 1, 2002 Davie County Health Corporation became the operating entity for Davie County Hospital. A management agreement with the North Carolina Baptist Hospital was signed. In July 2002 the facility became a Critical Access Hospital under CMS guidelines, following a survey by the Division of Facility Services.

At their February 20, 2006 meeting, the Davie County Commissioners passed control of Davie County Emergency Health Corporation (the Hospital) to the Hospital's Board of Trustees. The county will continue to lease the land and building to the Hospital. There was no change in the services offered by the Hospital and no change in the employment opportunities and benefits as a result of this action.