



South Lee County Community Hospital Committee

“The mission of the Committee is the establishment of a Community Hospital to serve our communities’ healthcare needs as soon as possible and a 24/7 free-standing emergency department during the period prior to the hospital’s opening”

Committee

Belin, Robert
Botwinick, Allen
Brunswick, Roger
Burdett, Pam
Celiberti, Richard
Crane, Hal
Dowd, Betteann
Doyle, Barbara
Dyner, Henri
Eslick, Donald
Ferguson, Tom
Gill, Mindy
Graft, John
Igoe, Jeanette
Klein, Marian
Lepola, Diane
Levy, Sam
Lewis, Gregory
MacNellis, Beverly
Messana, Tony
Mulligan, Terry
Myers, Bill
Nelson, Ben, Jr.
Popper, Chris
Richmond, George
Rubacky, Marjorie
Shellenbarger, Dave
Sloan, Kathryn
Sullivan, Tom
Thomson, Don
Townsend, Carol
Winklejohn, Jack
Wood, Scotty

Ben Nelson

Mayor, City of Bonita Springs, FL
Co-chair

Don Eslick

Estero Council of Community Leaders
Co-chair

CHC News Release #1

For Immediate Release

December 3, 2008

LEADERS UNITE FOR BETTER HEALTH CARE FOR SOUTH LEE COUNTY

Community Leaders from The City of Bonita Springs and Estero have united for better health care in South Lee County..

Co-Chaired by City of Bonita Springs Mayor, Ben Nelson and Estero Council of Community Leaders Chairman Don Eslick the committee consists of a broad cross section of residents committed to improving access to critical emergency services in south Lee County.

With an estimated 200,000 people living, working, shopping and commuting through this area on a daily basis, we need broader emergency health care than what is currently available. It has been reported to the committee that wait time for non critical ER services can be over 4 hours. The people of South Lee County do not feel that this is acceptable.

The three local providers of health care service in Lee and Collier Counties; Lee Memorial, Naples Community Health and Physician Regional; have been contacted in order to determine their interests in satisfying this need. In the meantime, the committee has begun working on its plans to bring this to realization through outreach to the community.

Initially, the committee is seeking a commitment from one of the areas existing “Non Profit” hospitals or a “For Profit” hospital to build and operate a free standing 24 hour/7 day emergency care facility to serve the people of south Lee County from the San Carlos, Estero and Bonita Springs areas.

The other goal of the committee is to build community and county support for the development of a full service, community based inpatient hospital for south Lee County.

As a result of the high growth of the area caused by ever expanding population, continued growth of FGCU, airport expansion, major shopping areas, hotels, and increasing traffic on US 41 and I-75, now is the time to begin planning for the health care needs of the community.

Add to this the anticipated growth from the Boston Red Sox complex recently committed to South Lee an inpatient hospital is a must for this area.

For more information please contact Sam Levy at 992-5383.