

1964

Conference Fact Sheet: Duval County Medical Center Operations, 1964

Duval County Medical Center

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FACT SHEET

These are answers to some of the questions you may have about Duval Medical Center and its operation. You undoubtedly will have many others, and we will answer them to the best of our ability.

DUVAL MEDICAL CENTER OFFICIALS ATTENDING THIS CONFERENCE:

MICHAEL J. WOOD, Administrator

DR. DEKLE TAYLOR, Member of Duval County Hospital Authority

and of the DMC medical staff

C. G. KING, Attorney, Chairman of the Hospital Authority

DR. WILBUR SUMNER, President of the attending medical staff

BUFORD BOWEN, Secretary and Treasurer of the Hospital Authority

WHAT IS DUVAL MEDICAL CENTER?

It is a county general hospital operated by the Duval County Hospital Authority. The Authority has seven members: two physicians, a member of the Board of County Commissioners, and four civic leaders of the community appointed by the Governor of Florida for four-year terms. All serve without pay.

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE SERVED BY DUVAL MEDICAL CENTER?

Admissions are more than 10,000 a year, emergency visits 80,000, outpatient visits 160,000, major surgical operations 1,977, minor surgical operations 5,827.

HOW MANY PATIENTS, WHO UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD BE ADMITTED, ARE TURNED AWAY DAILY?

It is estimated that approximately 25 patients needing admission are turned away daily because of the shortage of beds.

WHAT IS THE RATIO OF COLORED TO WHITE PATIENTS?

Outpatient: 74% Colored

Inpatient: 55% Colored

26% White

45% White

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM TO OPERATE DUVAL MEDICAL CENTER?

There are three sources:

1. Taxes

2. Direct payments from patients who are not indigent

and are able to defray all or part of the cost of

their hospitalization.

3. Payments from "third parties", such as insurance companies or welfare agencies.

Approximately two-thirds of the cost of operation comes from taxes. Last year, for example, Duval Medical Center spent \$3,293,000, of which \$1,100,000 was paid by or for patients.

HOW DOES DUVAL MEDICAL CENTER DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT TO MAKE A CHARGE FOR SERVICE?

Anyone who requests free hospital care must answer a long list of questions about his financial situation. This covers such areas as total income, ownership of an automobile, whether the car is for business or personal use, and if it is for personal use what obligations require the ownership of an automobile. Insurance policies are also investigated, and statements are checked with employers and other reliable references.

No one's perfect, of course, and it is probable that some patients get free care who should be paying for it. We do try hard, however, to collect from those who are able to pay.

In our clinic and in our emergency room we know there are many who can't pay and never will. We treat them free. Others pay on a graduated fee schedule that is determined on the basis of their income and resources.

WHAT IS THE PAYROLL OF DUVAL MEDICAL CENTER?

It's a big one--about \$2,500,000 a year, plus another million for food, drugs, supplies. There is a staff of over 700--doctors, nurses, telephone operators, housekeepers, pharmacists, laboratory technicians, cooks, office workers, maintenance workers. Much of the work of the hospital is done by volunteers, who get nothing but the satisfaction of helping others.

IS ALL THIS A DRAIN ON THE TAXPAYER?

No, because DMC performs a number of services for the city and county free of charge which would have to be paid for if private physicians or hospitals had to be used. For example, it provides all medical care for city and county prisoners. It also buys about \$5,000 worth of electric power a month from the City of Jacksonville.

HOW MUCH IS THE STAFF PAID?

The attending staff--private physicians who give an hour, two hours, four hours or more a week to teaching interns or examining patients--are paid nothing. There are about 200 of these, and their free services are one reason why DMC can operate for less than private hospitals.

Pay scale for other doctors is:

Interns, \$425.00 a month(a doctor must intern for a year after medical school). *DMC has 22 interns.*

Residents (in specialties): \$450.00 to start, up to \$525.00 in the fourth year. Salaries run a little higher in some specialties, such as psychiatry. DMC now has **34** resident physicians.

The vast majority(about 95 per cent) of medical care is given by interns, with the guidance of residents and attending staff. A reasonable estimate of the annual cost of this medical care would be about \$300,000, as against \$3,000,000 if given by private physicians at their regular fees.

WHAT WILL THE NEW DUVAL MEDICAL CENTER EVENTUALLY CONSIST OF?

A 750-bed hospital for acute medical and surgical cases, including an undetermined number of psychiatric beds. Also, a greatly enlarged emergency room and a receiving hospital (included in the 750 beds). A receiving hospital is an area set aside in which beds are always ready for anyone needing them.

WHY IS A MEDICAL CENTER AN ASSET TO A COMMUNITY?

It brings doctors to the community to complete their educations, and many of them may remain in the community, thus improving and enlarging medical service available. It also trains nurses and technicians. These doctors, nurses and technicians then become members of the staffs of private hospitals.

Another advantage of a medical center is found in the attraction of new industry and new payrolls. Good medical service is one of the things an industry checks into when seeking a new location.

WHAT ARE THE ECONOMIC AND OTHER ADVANTAGES OF THE DUVAL MEDICAL CENTER TO THE COMMUNITY?

There are more than meet the eye. To begin with, we stress rehabilitation. We have a long waiting list for surgery, and some patients wait as long as six months because of lack of operating facilities. An operation which will make a man able to work again--and perhaps take him off relief--always takes precedence over one which is merely cosmetic and over a defect which does not prevent the person from earning a living. A patient with a cataract on one eye, for example, may be moved down the list many times in order to make way for one with an acute problem.

Another advantage is one that is hard to pin down in terms of dollars and cents. But the fact is that the indigent sick are going to be taken care of in some way, and this is the best and most economical way to do it. The cost of care in DMC is at least 30 per cent below what the community would pay to buy comparable care in a private hospital.

Duval Medical Center also is largely responsible for the large number of physicians practicing in Jacksonville. Many communities build and equip medical centers in the hope of luring a doctor to practice there.

Jacksonville has 400 doctors, of whom 80 are here because they came to Duval Medical Center for their internship.

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ASIDE FROM PROVIDING MORE BEDS TO PUT SICK PEOPLE IN, WHAT ELSE CAN THE ENLARGED MEDICAL CENTER DO?

Plenty. Duval Medical Center, through the generosity of a number of individuals and organizations in the community, owns some of the most advanced equipment for the treatment of cancer and for open heart surgery. This very costly equipment (the Cobalt Unit for cancer therapy cost nearly \$100,000) is not being used to its capacity because there are not enough beds for the patients. As a result, most of those who use it are out-patients.

HOW WILL THE DIFFERENCE IN OPERATING COSTS BE PAID WHEN WE HAVE THREE TIMES AS MANY HOSPITAL BEDS PLUS THE ANCILLARY SERVICES WITHOUT WHICH THEY CANNOT BE USED EFFICIENTLY?

There can be no pat answer to this. Under normal circumstances, however, as the community grows and develops, the tax structure will yield more for Duval Medical Center without increasing the individual tax burden. Also, a sizable proportion of the new beds will be used by private patients who will of course defer their own expenses.

IS THERE A MEDICAL SCHOOL IN OUR FUTURE?

It certainly is a possibility. A busy general hospital is a valuable teaching tool, and Duval Medical Center is busy. It is already deemed to be one of the finest teaching hospitals in the South for the advanced education of medical school graduates.

HOW MUCH DOES THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY WANT TO BORROW?

The Hospital Authority is requesting approval to issue up to 20 million in bonds. It is estimated, however, that the largest bond issue which could be currently floated under the presently authorized 1.5 mills would be between 10 and 12 million, which with expected federal aid would be sufficient to construct a 500 bed hospital, this to be expanded later to 750 beds as the value of the mill increases.

HOW CAN A FREEHOLDER VOTE WHO HAS NOT REGISTERED FOR THE AUGUST 4 REFERENDUM?

It's quick and easy. Show a deed or a tax receipt. If you can't find it, just sign an affidavit that you own the property. Forms for this will be at the polls.

HOW MANY ORGANIZATIONS HAVE FORMERLY ENDORSED THE BOND ISSUE FOR A NEW DUVAL MEDICAL CENTER?

Florida Times-Union

Jacksonville Journal

Channel 4

Channel 12

Duval County Medical Society

St. Lukes Hospital

8th Street Improvement Ass'n

Riverside Hospital

Jacksonville Area Chamber of Commerce

Jacksonville Area Chamber of Commerce
Board of Governors

Jacksonville Area Chamber of Commerce
Public Health Committee

Duval County Pharmaceutical Ass'n

Jacksonville Hospitals Educational
Program