

Cabarrus Health Alliance

At The North Carolina Research Campus



Proposal: Locate the Model Public Health Department for the 21st Century on the North Carolina Research Campus.

Background: The Cabarrus Health Alliance (CHA) was created as a hospital authority in 1997. It is an autonomous public authority and the public health provider for Cabarrus County. CHA has over 200 employees with annual expenditures exceeding \$17,000,000. Recently, CHA has received national recognition as one of the top 50 innovations in government by the Ash Institute and Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. The conversion of CHA from a county health department to a public authority has been nationally recognized as a Model Practice by the National Association of City and County Health Officials.



Current: CHA is currently involved in several national research development projects. One of these is a business process reengineering project funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Another is a collaboration with IBM to bring personal health records to every health care consumer in the United States. CHA is also working with the State of North Carolina, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and IBM in developing electronic surveillance systems for tracking emerging diseases of public health significance.



Plan: A national panel of public health experts was convened last year and developed a plan to guide the development of a model health department to be located on the North Carolina Research Campus. The model department will consist of 61,000 sq. ft. offering exemplary public health services, a national public health training facility, and a training/practicing day care center. This model public health facility will collaborate with research campus partners in clinical research and research development projects.



Timetable: The model facility is scheduled to be operational by December 2011.