Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia
Board of Directors Meeting
August 31, 2026

Members Present
Pamela Kincheloe,RN
Patrice Lepczyk
Kyle Mullins
Anitha Raj, Chairperson
Douglas Samuelson
Robert Sharpe
James Smith, III MD

Staff Present
Ann McFeeley
Dean Montgomery

Guests (Partial List)
Carol Burchett, Chief Strategy Officer, Fairfax Radiology Centers
Ashish Chawla, MD, Chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology at Inova Fairfax Hospital
Paul Dreyer, Senior Director, Strategy & Planning, Inova Health System
Stuart Fruman, MD, PET of Reston
Lauri Garrett, Carient Heart & Vascular, US Health Partners
Nilay Gandhi, MD, President, Potomac Urology Center, TCAU
Laura Matthews, Vice President and Administrator of the Inova Schar Cancer Institute
Neel Shah, MD, Carient Heart & Vascular, US Health Partners US Health Partners
Christine Tran, MD, The Urology Group, Chief Strategy Officer, TCAU
Emma Trivax, Counsel, The Centers for Advanced Urology

I. Call to Order

Anitha Raj, Chairperson, Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia (HSANV), called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. She welcomed guests and reviewed the agenda.

Raj stated that, among other matters, the board would consider three certificate of public need (COPN) applications:

- Inova Fairfax Hospital, COPN Request VA-8894
- The Centers for Advanced Urology, COPN Request VA-8879
- Carient Heart & Vascular, COPN Request VA-8893

She said, without objection, the proposals would be considered in the order listed on the agenda.

II. Previous Minutes

The board approved minutes of the June 8, 2026, and June 15, 2026, meetings.

III. COPN Applications:

A. Inova Fairfax Hospital, expand radiation therapy service (COPN Request VA-8894)

Conflict of Interest Query

Raj followed HSANV conflict of interest procedures to determine whether any member had a conflict of interest on either application. No conflicts were declared, alleged, or otherwise identified.

Inova Fairfax Hospital Presentation, COPN Request VA-8894

Paul Dreyer, Senior Director, Strategy & Planning, Inova Health System, Laura Mattews, Vice President and Administrator of the Inova Schar Cancer Institute, and Ashish Chawla, MD, Chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology at Inova Fairfax Hospital, presented the proposal. They emphasized the high service volumes at Inova Fairfax Hospital (IFH), expanded hours of operations, increasing caseloads, and the absence of a practical alternative to adding capacity to respond to current and near-term demand at the hospital.

The radiation therapy service data discussed by IFH spokesmen is attached (Attachment 1).

Board & Staff Questions, Discussion

In response to questions Dryer, Matthews, and Chawla stated or confirmed that:

- Though three Inova Health Systems hospitals with two linear accelerators each have unused capacity, their average use is not low enough to permit the relocation of an accelerator from any of the three without creating a problematic operational environment at the donor program.
- Improving technology and treatment options have reduced the average number of fractionated treatment visits among radiation therapy patients within Inova Health System. The average now is about twenty visits delivered over four to five weeks.
- Inova Fairfax Hospital's specialized radiation therapy services, e.g., proton therapy and stereotactic radiosurgery (cyberknife), also have high use.

Public Comment

There was no public comment other than the letters of support submitted with the application. There is no known opposition to the project.

Final Summary

Dryer thanked the board for its consideration of the application.

Staff Recommendations, COPN Request VA-8894

Based on the data and information presented in the agency staff report on the application and the amplifying information presented by the IFH representatives, Montgomery recommended approval of the application as presented.

Board Deliberation and Vote, COPN Request VA-8894

Douglas Samuelson offered a motion to recommend approval of COPN Request, VA-8894. Pamela Kincheloe seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of seven in favor (Kincheloe, Lepczyk, Mullins, Raj, Samuelson, Sharpe, Smith,) and no one opposed.

B. The Centers for Advanced Urology, COPN Request VA-8879

Conflict of Interest Query

Raj followed HSANV conflict of interest procedures to determine whether any member had a conflict of interest on either application. No conflicts were declared, alleged, or otherwise identified.

The Centers for Advanced Urology Presentation, COPN Request VA-8879

Christine Tran, MD, The Urology Group, Chief Strategy Officer and Nilay Gandhi, MD, President, Potomac Urology Center presented the TCAU proposal.

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They noted the increasing reliance on PET imaging in an array of clinical applications, notably in diagnosing and treating prostate cancer, renal cancer, and other urological problems. Among other considerations, Tran and Gandhi stated:

- PET imaging is the preferred diagnostic imaging option for an expanding array of acute care patients. As reflected in recent reported service volumes and the number of TCAU referrals for PET scans, demand is growing rapidly regionwide.
- Most of the oncology-focused PET-CT services are used heavily, with several operating at or near capacity.
- Given the location of TCAU offices in northern Virginia, an imaging center in western Fairfax County will improve access among those served by the applicant.
- The capital cost of the project is within the range commonly seen for similar projects.
- Opposition to the project by Fairfax Radiology Centers (FRC) is misplaced. There is, or soon will be, efficient use of all authorized services, including those of FRC.
- There is no dedicated urology focused PET service in the region. Dedicated urology focused PET services should be given the same favorable treatment that has been afforded cardiac PET services.
- Adding a PET imaging service at TCAU is not a threat to any other imaging service.

The information presented by Tran and Gandhi is summarized in the slides used in their presentation (Attachment 2).

Board & Staff Questions, Discussion

In response to questions Tran and Candhi indicated that:

- The TCAU service would be urology focused. There is no intention or desire to change its clinical orientation.
- Demand for PET imaging in urology practices is expected to continue to grow as clinical indications for its use increase.
- The most appropriate response to increasing demand is to establish complementary services, as proposed by TCAU, in the service areas of its existing PET services.

Public Comment

Stuart Fruman, MD, representing PET of Reston, spoke against the TCAU application. He said PET of Reston (POR) is near the proposed TCAU site and serves residents of western Fairfax County. POR has upgraded its service and has capacity to serve many more patients. He noted the recent authorization of several oncology focused PET services that are not yet operational and that there is no indication of a regional need for more capacity. Consequently, the proposal is premature.

Fruman said with recent upgrades of its scanner PET of Reston, which is near the proposed TCAU site and now serves hundreds of TCAU patients, can serve more than 4,000 patients annually. He noted that, contrary to TCAU assertion of lengthy waits for service, PET of Reston serves nearly all referred patients within three days. Fruman's testimony is attached (Attachment 3).

Carol Burchett, Chief Strategy Officer, Fairfax Radiology Centers, opposed the TCAU proposal. She noted that IRMC recently opened a PET service near the proposed TCAU site. Like PET of Reston, it serves the same area and provides the same urology scans TCAU would provide. Burchett's testimony is attached (Attachment 4).

Applicant Final Summary

Tran and Gandhi restated TCAU's principal arguments for a dedicated urology focused PET service, exemplified by the TCAU proposal.

Staff Recommendation, COPN Request VA-8879

Based on the data and information presented in the agency staff report on the application and on the critique to the proposal by PET of Reston and Fairfax Radiology Centers, Montgomery said the TCAU application is premature. He suggested that TCAU defer the proposal, to permit recently authorized services to report caseloads. TCAU did not choose to defer or otherwise postpone consideration of the application. Montgomery recommended denial of the proposal

Board Deliberation and Vote, COPN Request VA-8879

James Smith offered a motion to recommend approval of COPN Request VA-8879. Robert Sharpe seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of three in favor (Lepczyk, Sharpe, Smith) and four

opposed (Kincheloe, Mullins, Raj, Samuelson). The recommendation of denial passed four in favor and three opposed.

C. Carient Heart & Vascular, COPN Request VA-8893

Conflict of Interest Query

Raj followed HSANV conflict of interest procedures to determine whether any member had a conflict of interest on the application. Pam Kincheloe declared a conflict. No other conflicts were declared, alleged, or otherwise identified.

Carient Heart & Vascular Presentation

Lauri Garrett, Carient Heart & Vascular and Neel Shah, MD, Carient Heart & Vascular, presented the application. The information Shah and Garrett discussed is attached (Attachment 5)

Among other considerations, they stated that:

- Carient's Manassas and Vienna PET imaging services are operating at near capacity, serving more than 5,000 patients in 2025. Demand is increasing. Additional capacity is needed to meet internal demand.
- Given the distribution of Carient offices in northern Virginia, establishing a PET service in southeastern Fairfax County is needed to reduce demand in the Manassas and Vienna imaging centers, and thereby improve operating efficiency practice wide.
- Projected capital costs are within the capital expenditure range seen for similar projects.
- The project is consistent with applicable Virginia SMFP service planning considerations applied to other cardiac PET-CT service proposals.

Board & Staff Questions, Discussion

In response to questions Garrett and Shah stated that:

- Carient Heart & Vascular is now a subsidiary of US Health Partners, a Maryland based firm.
- Carient's Manassas service has a substantially larger caseload than its Vienna service.
- Demand for, and reliance on, PET imaging and CT calcium scoring imaging is growing steadily within Carient.
- Medicare and most other insurers do not pay for calcium scoring scans.

Public Comment

There was no public comment other than the letters of support submitted with the application. There is no known opposition to the project.

Applicant Final Summary

Shah and Garrett thanked the board for its consideration of the application and offered to answer any additional questions.

Board Deliberation and Vote, COPN Request VA-8889

James Smith offered a motion to recommend approval of COPN Request, VA-8893. Douglas Samuelson seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of six in favor (Lepczyk, Mullins, Raj, Samuelson, Sharpe, Smith), none opposed, and on abstention (Kincheloe).

V. Other Business

The next HSANV meeting will be Monday, October 5, 2026. There will be no scheduled board meeting in September

VI. Adjourn

Raj adjourned the meeting at 10:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Dean Montgomery

Attachments (5)