



September 10, 2003

**Remarks of Ken Yager, Roane County Mayor,
Roane County, Tennessee, to the CARES Commission
on September 10, 2003**

Honorable Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to address this Commission on the draft National CARES Plan.

I am privileged to represent Roane County, Tennessee, as County Mayor, but speak to an issue affecting thousands in mid-East Tennessee, a largely rural area bordered by Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Nashville. I am here to ask you to consider a Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) for Roane County, Tennessee.

A Roane County CBOC had been recommended in the VISN 09 Market Plan, but was deleted from the National Plan by the Undersecretary.

Compelling reasons urge inclusion of a Roane County CBOC into the National Plan:

- (1) A Roane County (TN) CBOC will serve mid-East Tennessee in the Central Market Area of VISN 09. This region is presently underserved by the Veterans Administration. This lack of market share is compounded by a significantly greater proportion of veterans ages 45-74 than the U. S. population in general. Many counties also experience physician shortages. Strong regional support testifies to this need: Both County and City Mayors have endorsed this project. Citizens and organizations throughout the region have filed compelling support letters.

• OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE •

• 200 E Race Street, Suite 1 • P O Box 643 • Kingston, Tn 37763
PHONE: 865/376-5578 • FAX: 865/717-4215 • e-mail: kyager@roanegov.org

www.roanealliance.com

- (2) 20,000 veterans are within a 30-minute drive of the Proposed Site. 75,000 veterans are within a 60-minute drive (*see Exhibit A*).
- (3) The proposed Roane County CBOC represents a unique partnership opportunity between the Veterans Administration and the local community. The Roane County Government, the local health department, and Roane Medical Center have worked together to offer a medical building **at no cost** to the Veterans Administration or its contractor, which will help bring the Veterans Administration's cost down (*see Exhibit B*). This facility is a modern structure with ample room reserved for the CBOC. The local medical center is ready and able to contract to provide each service required by the Veterans Administration at a reasonable cost (*see Exhibit C*). Our ability to provide a facility with a competent provider represents an offer you should seriously consider. The effort to provide this facility is a community effort that embodies the Veterans Administration's spirit to provide community outreach and accessible health care to our veterans.
- (4) Our effort is regional. Ten County Mayors representing 663,561 citizens (68,207 of whom are veterans) have endorsed the Roane County CBOC (*see Exhibit D*), as well as the East Tennessee Development District, which represents additional county and city governments.

As you consider our petition, read the words of Charlie Parker, an 82-year-old veteran who writes, "I well know the need of a clinic for our veterans. I work with our Service Officers and make several trips a year to take veterans to the hospitals in Nashville and Murfreesboro. I know what it is to be all day making these trips...." "I know what the feeling is to take a veteran to the hospital or clinic to fill out the forms for an appointment and be told that it would be twelve to eighteen months before he could get an appointment."

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Remarks of Ken Yager, Roane County Mayor
September 10, 2003

Read the words of Deborah Beasley Hyder, daughter of Jimmie Lee Beasley, a disabled WWII veteran, "I 'kept the roads hot' running back and forth to the VA hospitals. I can tell you from experience that the demands of having your own family to attend to and having your dependent parents to take care of is a daunting task. I am not complaining...." "It was a privilege to take care of daddy until his death of cancer last year."

Thank you.

Rockwood, Tennessee- Roan County

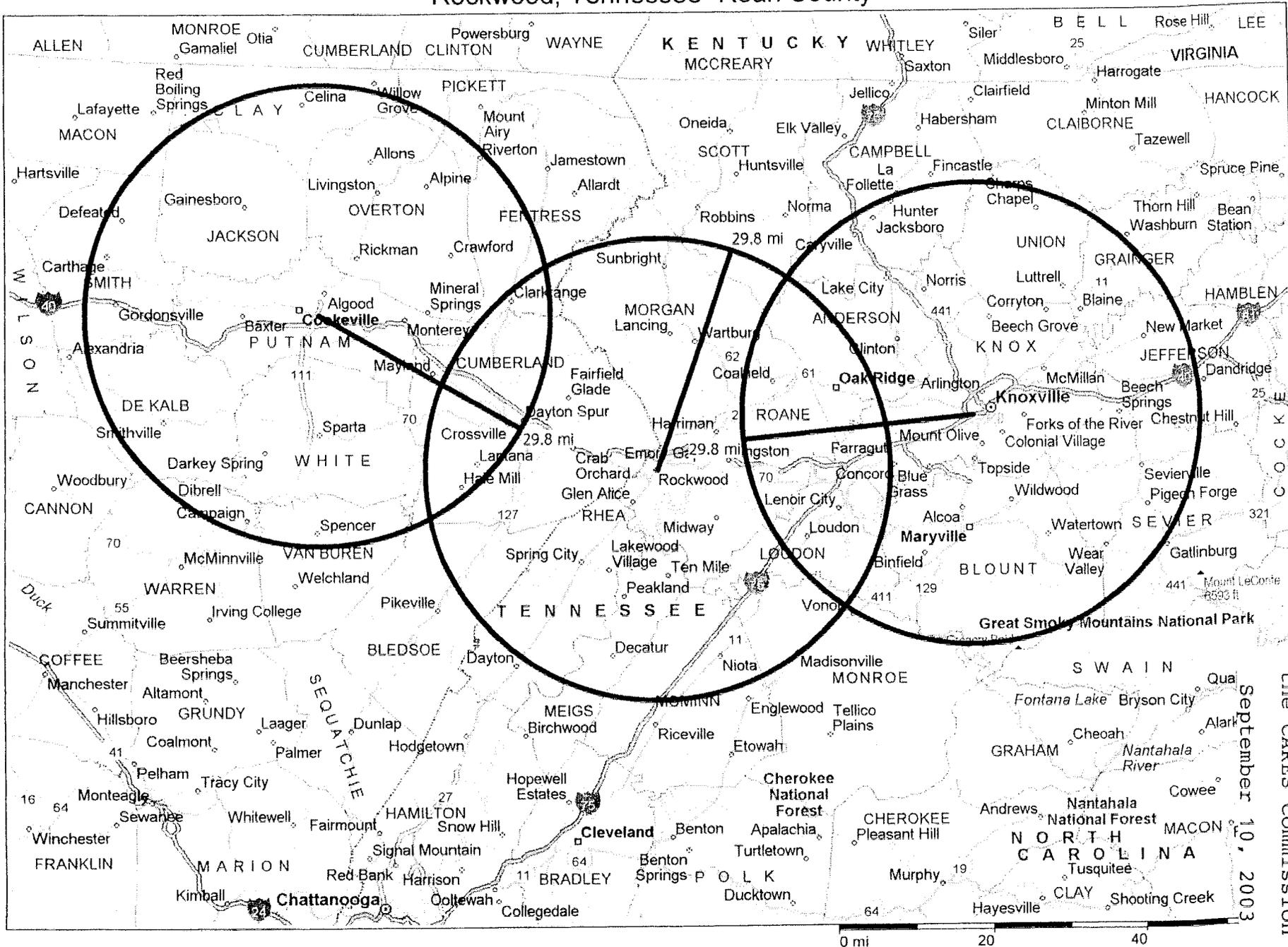
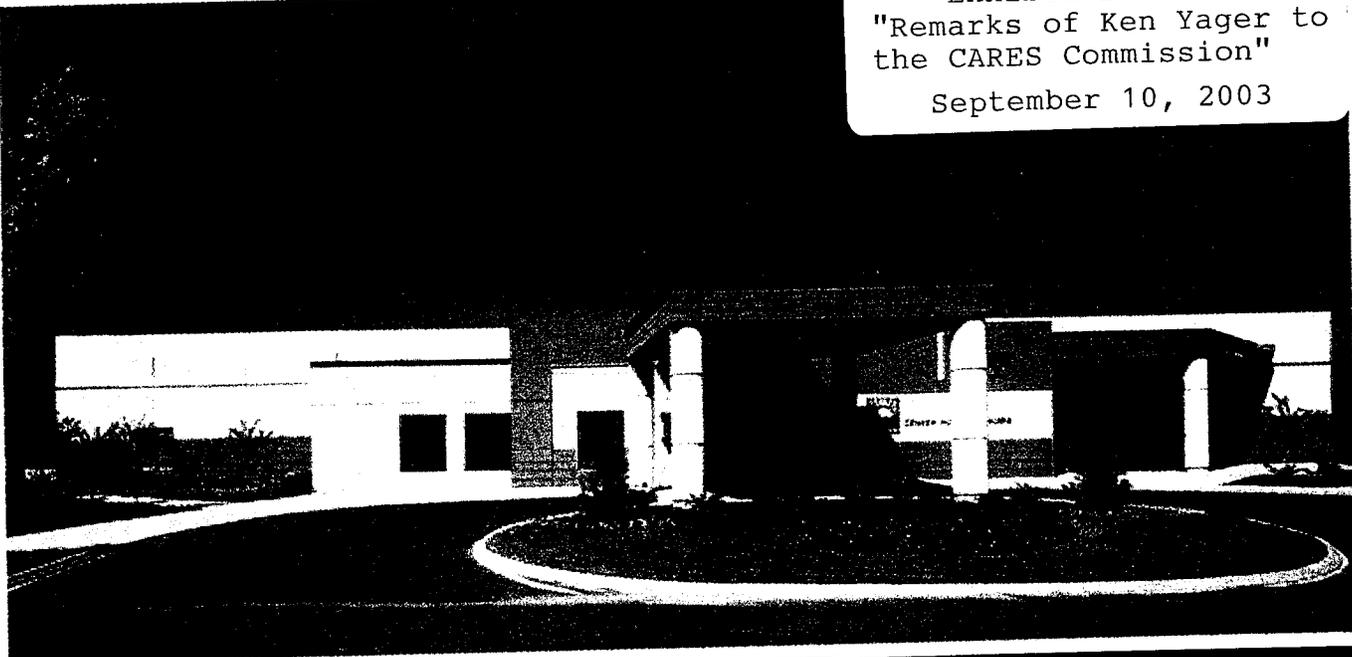


Exhibit A of
 "Remarks of Ken Yager to
 the CARES Commission"
 September 10, 2003

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Exhibit B to
"Remarks of Ken Yager to
the CARES Commission"
September 10, 2003

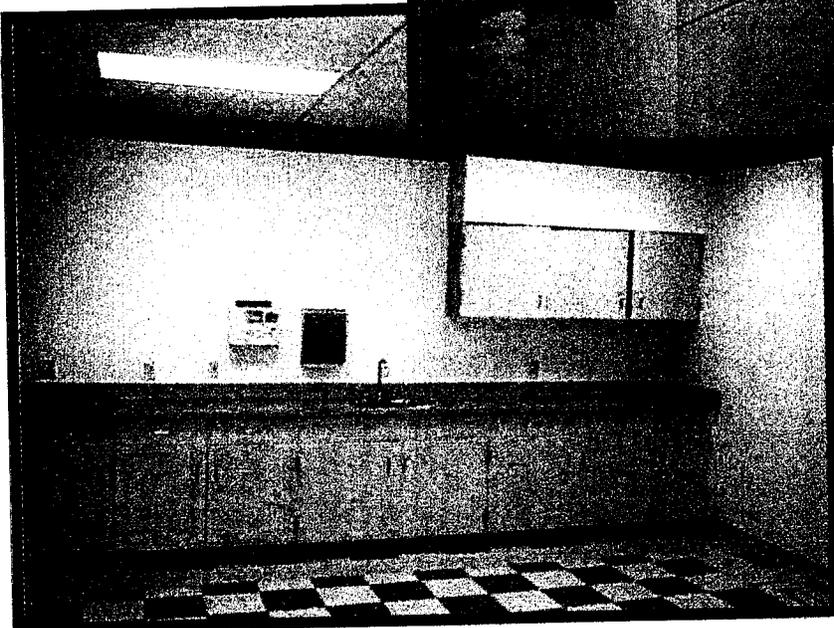
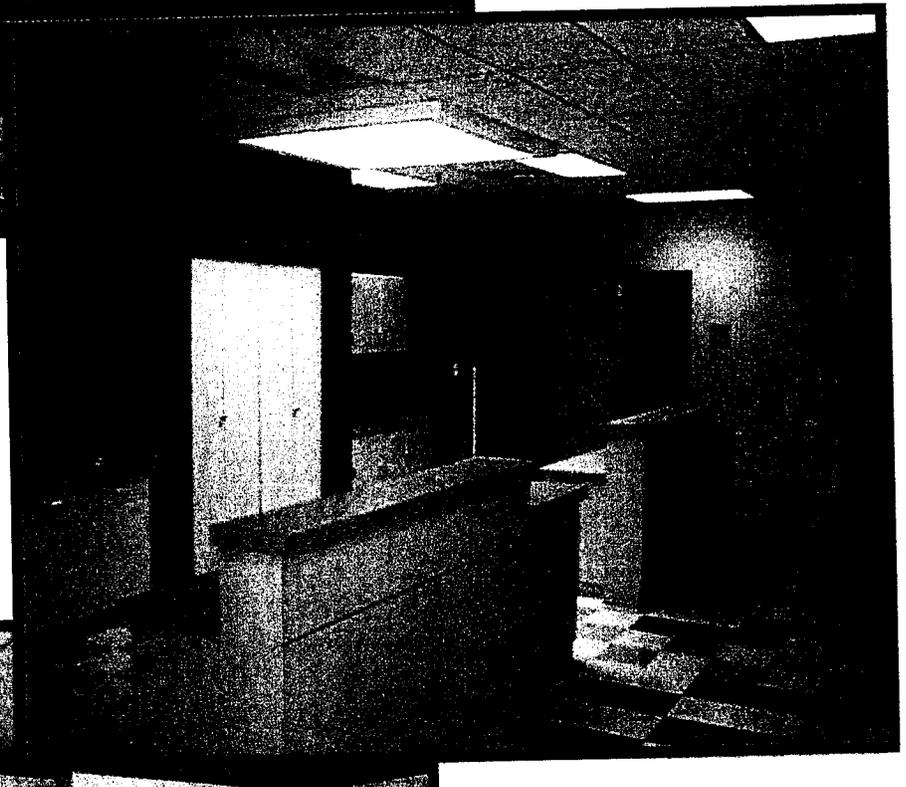
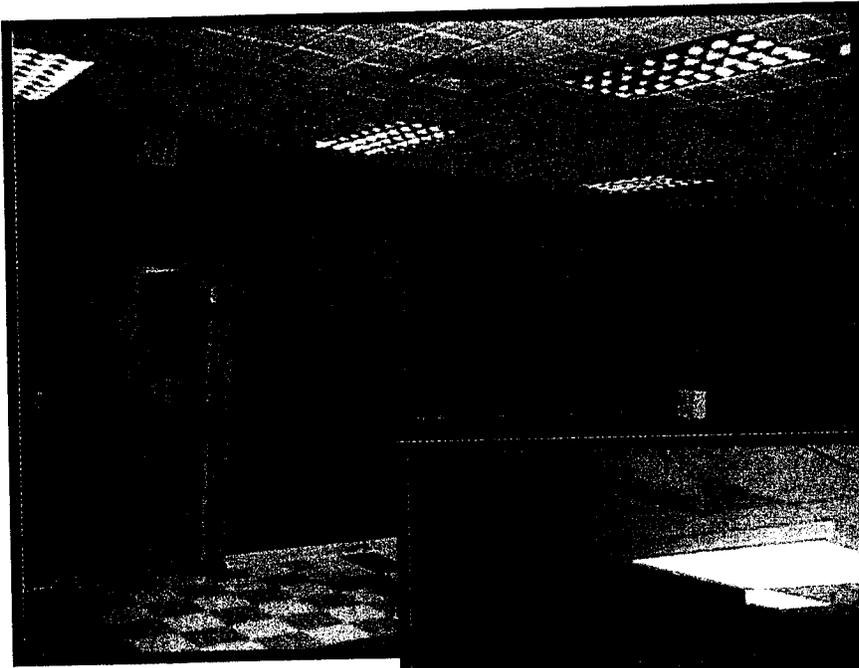


ARCON HEALTHCARE CENTER

Property Location:	Highway 27 Rockwood, Roane County, Tennessee
Map/Parcel Number:	Map 44, Parcel 53
Current Owner:	Health Ventures, Inc.
Property Type:	Medical Office Building
Land Area:	18.25 Acres
Property Description:	One-story medical office building constructed in 1997-1998. Building area is 17,790 SF plus two attached canopies containing combined area of 1,585 SF.
Property Zoning:	C-2, Highway Business District
Flood Map:	470267 0060B, Dated 9-30-80, Zone C, Areas of Minimal Flooding

ARCON HEALTH CARE FACILITY

INTERIOR



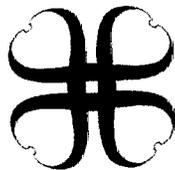


Exhibit C of
"Remarks of Ken Yager to
the CARES Commission"

September 10, 2003

Roane Medical Center

412 Devonia Street • P.O. Box 489 • Harriman, TN 37748
Phone (865) 882-1323 • Fax (865) 882-4343

*V. Yager
-Cant*

April 2, 2003

Industrial Medicine
401 Devonia Street
Harriman, TN 37748
(865) 882-4334

Health Information Center
1490 N. Gateway Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
(865) 354-6809

Wellness Center
2305 N. Gateway Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
(865) 882-8888

Patricia Neal Rehab Center
2497 S. Roane Street
Harriman, TN 37748
(865) 882-7175

Transportation Service
412 Devonia Street
Harriman, TN 37748
882-4357

Home Health
2497 S. Roane Street
Harriman, TN 37748
(865) 882-6144

Women's Center
307 Devonia Street
Harriman, TN 37748
(865) 882-4324

Physician Practice Mgmt.
315 Devonia Street
Harriman, TN 37748
(865) 882-4440

Cardiac & Pulmonary Rehab
415 Devonia Street
Harriman, TN 37748
(865) 882-4142

Mr. Ken Yager,
Roane County Executive
P.O. Box 643
Kingston, TN 37763

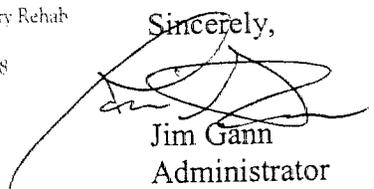
Dear Ken,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me today about the VA clinic for Roane County. As we discussed, there are 6,386 veterans living in Roane County, 2,061 in Morgan County, 6,519 in Cumberland County and 4,603 in Loudon County. This is the area that Roane Medical Center considers its primary market and would also be the market for a VA Center. Our consultant informs us that about 16% of the veterans use VA services. This translates to about 3,145 candidates for the clinic.

Roane Medical Center is certainly interested in managing the clinic for Roane County. As we presented to you today, there are three conditions that must be met before we feel we can manage this clinic. 1) The operation and services provided are the same or similar to those in the Jonesboro request for proposal we submitted to our consultant. 2) The VA agrees to enroll a minimum of 2,100 patients in the clinic during the first year of operation. 3) A capitation rate adequate to operate the clinic can be negotiated with the VA.

Please let me know how I can assist in bringing this clinic to a reality for Roane County.

Sincerely,


Jim Gann
Administrator



BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS
FOR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

List of Services for Roane Medical Center

Lab

Radiology

CT

MRI

Nuclear

Ultrasound

Cardiac Cath

Stereotatic Breast Biopsy

Day Surgery/Surgery (inpatient)

Stress Test

Holter Monitor

Pulmonary Function

Sleep Lab

Intensive Care

Emergency Services

Pulmonology

Cardiology

Hospitalist Program

Cardiac Rehab

Pulmonary Rehab

Industrial Medicine

Inpatient Physical Therapy

Outpatient Physical Therapy Rehab

Mammography

Bone Density

Wellness Center

Health Information Center

Urology

Podiatry

E.N.T.

Orthopedics

Transportation Service

Geriatric Psychiatric Unit (to open in June, 2001)



August 27, 2003

Chairman Edward Alvarez
CARES Commission
810 Vermont Avenue, NW (00CARES)
Washington, DC 20420

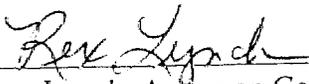
Dear Mr. Alvarez:

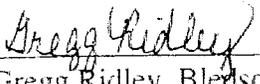
We are advised that the Roane County, Tennessee, outpatient clinic, which had been recommended in the MidSouth Health Care Network (VISN 9) Market Plan, has been deleted from the draft National CARES Plan that has been submitted to the CARES Commission. The purpose of this letter is to strongly recommend that the proposed Roane County outpatient clinic be included in the National Market Plan.

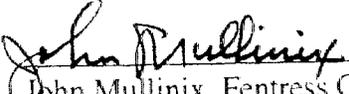
The Roane County clinic will serve a region that is presently underserved by the Veterans Administration. It is largely rural and because of the lack of clinics, the Veterans Administration has a small market share in most of our region. In addition to not having adequate facilities to serve veterans in this region, the problem is compounded by a significantly greater proportion of veterans between the ages of 45-74 than the U. S. population. Recognizing this need, the Roane County Government has acquired a state-of-the-art facility in Rockwood, Tennessee, to develop as a health clinic and has set aside a portion of the facility for use by the Veterans Administration at no charge to the Veterans Administration or its contractor.

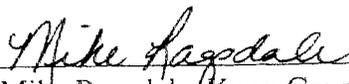
On behalf of these veterans, we request that the CARES Commission put the Roane County, Tennessee outpatient clinic site back in the National Market Plan. If it is appropriate, we would invite staff from the Commission to visit the Roane County site at any time.

Sincerely,


Rex Lynch, Anderson County Mayor


Gregg Ridley, Bledsoe County Mayor


John Mullinix, Fentress County Mayor


Mike Ragsdale, Knox County Mayor

• OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE •

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www.roanealliance.com

Exhibit E to
"Remarks of Ken Yager to
the CARES Commission"
September 10, 2003

Rockwood, Tenn.
August 28, 2003

Mr. Edward Alvarez
Chairman of the CARES Commission
810 Vermont Ave. (oo CARES)
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Mr.
Edward Alvarez:

I am writing in behalf of our request for a Veterans Clinic in Roane County. This clinic will not only serve veterans of Roane County but also the veterans of the counties surrounding Roane County. I have worked with the veterans long and hard to secure a veterans clinic in Roane County. I am a life member in the American Legion with 45 years of service also a life member in the Veterans of Foreign Wars and member of the Roane County Memorial Honor Guard. I well know the need of a clinic for our veterans. I work with our Service Officers on Veterans affairs and make several trips a year to take veterans to the hospitals in Nashville and Murfreesboro also to our clinic in Knoxville. I know what it is to be all day making these trips because the hospitals and clinics are understaffed. I know what the feeling is to take a veteran to the hospital or clinic to fill out the forms for appointment and be told that it would be twelve to eighteen months before he could get an appointment.

The veterans in Roane and surrounding counties would like for you to take a good look at what we have to offer before making your decision. We have as nice of a building as money can buy fully equipped for any examination required. We also have Doctors and Nurses ready to serve. We have qualified personnel to handle office work, maintenance and janitorial work. We have a County Mayor and County Commissioners who have worked long and hard for the welfare of the veterans and are willing to keep on working as long as we have veterans who need help .

The Veterans of Roane and surrounding counties , our County Mayor, Ken Yager, our Commissioners and the citizens would appreciate your help in obtaining this clinic in Roane County.

Thanking you in advance for your help.

Sincerely yours,
Charles Parker
Charles Parker