

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JOINT  
DEKALB FULTON HEALTHCARE TASK FORCE AS POLICIES OF  
DEKALB COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, DeKalb County and Fulton County have come together to form a Joint Healthcare Task Force to study the common challenges faced by both jurisdictions in order to develop a plan of action that will cohesively begin to address the healthcare needs of the residents of both counties; and

**WHEREAS**, through the meetings held by the Joint Fulton DeKalb Healthcare Taskforce, it was noted that DeKalb County and Fulton County have been the major funding source for Grady Hospital in the provision of healthcare services and emergency care for residents living within the boundaries of these two counties who are at or below the income level designated as indigent and, increasingly due to the current economic downturn, a new demographic of persons who find themselves without healthcare coverage for the first time; and

**WHEREAS**, the financial contributions of DeKalb County and Fulton County should be managed in a fashion that provide improved healthcare outcomes for the residents of both counties, having as the goal a healthier and a more medically informed and involved patient base; and

**WHEREAS**, it is a fundamental duty and function of DeKalb County and its officials to protect and promote the public health and welfare; and

**WHEREAS**, DeKalb County provides healthcare services that include the operation and/or funding of clinics, hospitals, health centers, senior care services, mental health and substance abuse programs and healthcare for inmates of the County jail; and

**WHEREAS**, DeKalb County seeks to eliminate health disparities; and

**WHEREAS**, the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners desires to promote the goal of continuing to provide these critical healthcare services while reducing unnecessary costs to the taxpayers of DeKalb County; and

**WHEREAS**, The Joint DeKalb Fulton Healthcare Task Force has developed recommendations that promote the judicious and coordinated use of DeKalb County and Fulton County resources to deliver improved healthcare services for residents of both counties;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the following recommendations of the Joint DeKalb Fulton healthcare Task Force as policies of DeKalb County:

1. Encourage County employees to receive healthcare services from Grady Hospital. Evaluate service and savings for employees and revenue benefits for Grady
2. Take appropriate steps to establish a Universal Health Card which will allow patients to be correctly identified when they appear for services, expedite referrals and cut down on wait times for appointments. This card may also help to reduce the number of visits that patients have to make. Identifying health information (e.g. blood type, allergies, chronic conditions, history, etc.) would be stored on the card.

3. Utilize 340B drug pricing wherever possible, particularly at the DeKalb County Jail. Grady Hospital should continue the discussion of these cost savings at the DeKalb County Jail with the DeKalb County Sheriff
4. Identify innovative, evidence-based ways to redirect patients to Neighborhood Clinics where they will have a “medical home.” The process will provide crucial health information to the clinic after a patient is discharged from the hospital or after being treated at the emergency room.
5. Identify ways to reduce healthcare and particularly mental healthcare costs at the DeKalb County Jail by creating an Ad Hoc Committee to be made up of DeKalb County and Fulton County Sheriffs, the Grady Vice President for Behavioral Health, the Fulton County Deputy Director of Health and Human Services and the Health Directors for DeKalb and Fulton counties, one Commissioner each from DeKalb County and Fulton County and both DeKalb and Fulton County District Attorneys and local law enforcement leaders with such Committee to make recommendations to both County governments. The committee will identify opportunities to collaborate, identify cost savings, improve the quality of care and continuity of after-care and support the expansion of stabilization centers as an alternative to jail for persons with mental illness.
6. Build a broader healthcare advocacy coalition to include:
  - Georgia Research Alliance
  - Alliance of Public Hospitals
  - Georgia Hospital Association
  - Georgia Free Clinics
  - Grady Hospital
  - The Atlanta Community Access Coalition
  - Federal level collaboration

Upon passage, this Resolution will be shared with other advocacy groups.

7. Support legislative efforts to:
    - Bolster emergency disaster preparedness for hospitals
    - Relax strict requirements for state grants to allow greater collaboration between Grady, county health departments and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
    - Enact Health Empowerment Zones at the federal level
    - Provide research funds for Morehouse School of Medicine, Emory University School of Medicine and county health departments through federal stimulus funding
    - Remove the state’s disproportionate share cap on trauma funds to Grady Hospital
- County Legislative Teams will meet together with the Grady Hospital Legislative Team to discuss and collaborate on strategies
8. Leverage resources to work together at every opportunity and support continuing all efforts to increase health clinic expansion
  9. Identify violence as a public health concern
  10. Support continued engagement of healthcare providers in ongoing efforts to coordinate and deliver services efficiently and comprehensively