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Capital Health touts community development in tour of $540M hospital

By Beth Fitzgerald
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Capital Health on Friday held an inaugural event at its $540 million, 237-bed medical center in Hopewell, highlighting clinical advances from robotic surgery, to pediatric emergency care, to a green building design that saves water, energy and money.
The new hospital, which opens to patients Nov. 6, replaces Capital Health Mercer, in Trenton, which will operate as a satellite emergency department. Capital Health also operates Capital Health Regional Medical Center, in Trenton, and an outpatient facility in Hamilton.

Among the speakers were Bob Martin and Mary O'Dowd, commissioners of the state departments of Environmental Protection and Health and Senior Services, respectively.

U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez (D-Hoboken) said the mortgage for the hospital and its new equipment were insured by the Federal Housing Administration, "the largest project the FHA has ever insured in its history." He said the FHA estimates its mortgage insurance will save Capital Health $487 million over the life of the loan.

Carol J. Galante, assistant secretary for housing at the FHA, said "Before I joined the Barack Obama administration, I was a nonprofit real estate developer doing public developments — affordable housing, community facilities — and I have some idea of what it takes to bring together something this beautiful and this vibrant." She said projects like the medical center are important for the services they provide the community as well as "economic stimulus and jobs."

Samuel J. Plumeri Jr., chairman of the Capital Health board of directors, said, "Traditionally, patients requiring very specialized care have found it necessary to travel to major cities such as Philadelphia and New York. We can now tell patients that this higher level of care is available right here on their doorstep."

Al Maghazehe, CEO of Capital Health, said "We have rethought everything about the typical patient's hospital experience to create an environment that promotes healing, reduces anxiety and delivers advanced medical care in a calming, comfortable setting."

He pointed out that in addition to building a new hospital, Capital Health in recent years has invested $100 million "to complete the renovation of our medical center and our headquarters in our hometown of Trenton — which I dare to say is the largest investment the city has seen in many years."

He said about 6,000 people came to a community open house at the new medical center two week ago. "This is your hospital — we are not a for-profit health care organization, and you are the shareholders. We look forward to being an active member of this community."

Dr. Marc S. Whitman, president of the medical staff, said the new medical center has 700 doctors and hundreds of nurses and medical professionals providing "the premier health care destination in the region" where private rooms "will promote an infection-free, safety-first medical environment."

Comments
Maryann Perkins commented on 10/18/2011 at 8:59am EST
I attended the Open House at Hopewell's Capital Health Medical Center and it was fabulous. Well organized volunteers and employees managed the crowd beautifully. The hospital is more like a lovely 'hotel' and is most impressive. Those in Hopewell Township and the hospital administrators deserve many compliments for this accomplishment for the people in a wide area. To them I say thank you with much gratitude.