



## Home Rule Charter to permit “Full Initiative”

Prior to approving a proposed charter being placed on the ballot, the 11 members of the Lancaster County Government Study Commission bowed to suggestions by *NewsLanc* and others by adding a “Full Initiative” category.

“Limited Initiative” is when residents collect 1,000 signatures in favor of proposing a given ordinance. The ordinance then appears before the County Commissioners for a vote. Failure of the Commissioners to vote on the resolution results

in passage by default;

In “Full Initiative,” certain subjects can be placed on the ballot for a vote in the next general election if a petition is submitted containing “at least ten (10) percent of the number of voters in the County voting for the County candidate receiving the highest number of votes in the most recent Countywide, municipal general election” and the Commissioners vote not to approve it.

## LETTER: Hospital Nurses “Complacent”

In regard to Lancaster General Hospital, there is a notable sense of complacency not only among the nurses, but also observed by the efforts of the physical and occupational therapists, respiratory therapists and even the x-ray technicians. This change in approach to patient care had been noted ever since the new administration (Mr. Beeman as CEO) had taken over at LGH.

This notable difference in behaviors of the LGH Staff forebodes a future of monopolistic healthcare in Lancaster County. In the (not so distant) future, the LGH/Ephrata Community Hospital merger will continue to reign supreme and the failures of Lancaster Regional Medical Center and Heart of Lancaster Regional Medical Center are bound to continue.

## EDITORIAL: Marv Adams of the *Sunday News* Has a Point, and “Excuse Us”

Along with implying a lack of intelligence and sanity among the editors and readers of *NewsLanc.com* and the *Lancaster Post*, Editor Adams questioned when critics would cease to refer to the “monopoly Lancaster Newspapers” now that the *Lancaster Post* is published weekly. It is a hard habit to break, but we’ll try!

Concerning this issue’s letters critical of Lancaster General Hospital, we ask our readers to appreciate that if we do not occasionally “gore their ox” by raising questions about institutions near and dear to them, we aren’t doing our job.

## LETTER TO NEWSLANC: Hospitals' Financial Failures May Lead to Sale

“With chronic revolving door CEOs and poor financials at both Lancaster Regional Medical Center (LRMC) and Heart of Lancaster Regional Medical Center (HLRMC), Health Management Associates (HMA) has decided to sell both hospitals to another healthcare corporate entity\*, Tenet Healthcare Corporation (THC).

“A high-ranking HMA corporate executive, who requests anonymity, has stated that both LRMC and HLRMC (both for-profit hospitals) cannot compete in Lancaster County with Lancaster General Hospital (LGH). Case in point, the most recent balance sheets of all three hospitals denote the relative financials in that LGH (a not-for-profit hospital) garnered a \$106 million profit while LRMC only garnered \$1.5 million and HLRMC had a financial loss of \$200,000.

“In regard to Ephrata Community Hospital (ECH), it is apparent to this HMA corporate executive, that the imminent merger of LGH and ECH again reiterates the public appeal of LGH and its many satellite offices. Essentially, ECH recognizes that it is better to ‘get in bed’ with LGH than try to battle them to eventual financial ruin.

“The recent hiring of Rebecca Brewer as interim CEO of both hospitals is purely for the purpose of appearances of LRMC and HLRMC as the purchase/transition to THC is underway. There is evidence of the imminent purchase to THC exists such as the recent mailing of both hospitals’ last three years’ Board of Trustees meeting minutes to the THC corporate headquarters in Dallas, Texas.

“What is also beguiling is the recurrent theme of both LRMC and HLRMC merging services and campuses under a one HMA hospital consolidation plan? The Lancaster New Era and the Intelligencer have both reported that this merger was to occur in the near future. However, with the recent transfer of Michael Cowling from the CEO position at both LRMC and HLMRC, it is now being reported that the consolidation of both HMA-owned hospitals will be slowed down under the leadership of CEO Rebecca Brewer.

“In actuality and according to this HMA executive, the consolidation will not take place. According to that executive, ‘It was a mistake to enter the Lancaster County market. When you go against a strong competitor like LGH, there has to be multiple joint ventures and employment agreements between Lancaster County physicians and the HMA hospitals.’

“HMA has employed over 80 physicians in Lancaster County, but the great majority of these physicians almost immediately bring their surgeries, lab work and other ancillary services to LGH and its satellite offices. This executive also added, ‘We need to divest ourselves from Lancaster County at a loss and that HMA should have never entered the Lancaster County market. HMA does well in small Southern towns in which only one hospital serves the community. We need to remain in these markets only.’”

**\* NEWSLANC has no second source concerning a sale.**

## WATCHDOG

Why do we rush through Marv Adams’s *Sunday News* column ramblings to get to what

his daughter had to say? Marv should double her allowance and give us more of Abigail’s piercing tongue.

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