

Hospitals come to terms on Dominican expansion

Dominican Santa Cruz and AMI/Community of Santa Cruz hospitals have reached a "non-aggression" pact with AMI agreeing to drop its opposition to Dominican's plans to build an additional 87 beds.

Community Hospital administrator Anthony Daigle and hospital publicist Richard Swanson were un-

available for comment on the agreement Friday morning.

Dominican Hospital spokesman Frank McGovern confirmed that AMI had agreed to drop its opposition to Dominican's application for a Certificate of Need to add the 87 hospital beds to its present 150 bed facility.

In return, Dominican has promised to support an AMI application for a certificate of exemption to build additional services, including additional laboratory space, to support its present 180 bed license.

A state hearing officer

closed the hearings on Dominican's application for the controversial 87 bed expansion, and an uncontested application to build a 28-bed psychiatric facility on the hospital grounds to replace the 18 bed facility now operated by the County of Santa Cruz.

Dominican Hospital officials expect a final decision on the hospital's applications in two to three weeks, McGovern said.

The hospital had originally submitted an application for 114 new beds.

The application, said McGovern, was pared to 87 beds by state officials.

If approved, it would now allow the hospital to build 30 medical-surgical beds, 12 pediatrics beds, four critical care, four transitional care, and 37 skilled nursing beds.

The psychiatric facility will include 10 beds in a locked facility, and 18 in an unlocked portion of the building, McGovern said.

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