



**Virgin Islands Legislature
Committee on Budget, Appropriations, and Finance
Honorable Senator Novelle E. Francis, Chairperson
Wednesday, August 12, 2026**

**Testimony of
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Good afternoon Honorable Senator Novelle E. Francis, Chairman of the Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance, of the 36th Legislature and other Honorable Senators of the Committee, other Honorable Senators of the 36th Legislature, Senate Staff, fellow hospital testifiers, and the listening and viewing audience. My name is Darryl A. Smalls, Executive Director of Facilities & Capital Development for the Territorial Hospital Redevelopment Team (THRT).

As the Executive Director of the THRT, on behalf of Chief Executive Officer Darlene A. Baptiste, my Team and I have continued to manage and oversee the planning, programmatic design, final design, bidding, project management, construction, procurement and close out for the redevelopment of our Territorial Health Facilities to include the Juan F. Luis Hospital (JFLH), the Roy L. Schneider Hospital (RLSH), the Charlotte Kimelman Cancer Institute (CKCI), and the Myrah Keating Smith Community Health Center (MKSCHC). Equally important, we have been actively engaged in several enabling projects that are essential to the redevelopment of the four facilities.

I thank you for this opportunity to join Chief Executive Officer, Darlene A. Baptiste, and the Executive Leadership Team of the Schneider Regional Medical Center as a part of their Fiscal Year 27 Budget Presentation to share testimony today as it pertains specifically to the status of the reconstruction of the Charlotte Kimelman Cancer Institute (CKCI), the Myrah Keating Smith Community Health Center (MKSCHC) and the Roy L. Schneider Hospital (RLSH).

I recently testified before the Committee on Health, Hospitals and Human Services on July 22, 2026, wherein I provided an update as it pertained specifically to the reconstruction efforts that have been undertaken with respect to the Charlotte Kimelman Cancer Institute. As reported, the reconstruction efforts of CKCI are 99% completed with \$34,932,144.84 billed out of the total contract value of \$35,186,153.39. The project is currently in the final punch list phase, and the General Contractor is procuring all attic stock from subcontractors to satisfy project closeout requirements and contract specifications. The remaining effort to complete the facility is the acquisition of owner supplied items to include IT Equipment, FFE (Fixtures, Furniture and Equipment) and Minor Medical Equipment.

To date we have selected a vendor for the IT Equipment. Once the contracts are executed, we will move post haste to the acquisition, delivery and installation; all of which is slated to be completed by November 2026. Similarly, we have selected a vendor for the FFE, and the contract has been executed. We have commenced collaboration with the vendor to solidify final FFE selections which will facilitate the acquisition, delivery and installation, all of which is slated to be completed by November 2026. Lastly, Minor Medical Equipment has been by far one of the greatest procurement challenges. I must assure this body and the Community that all efforts to procure this equipment are being undertaken while ensuring that we comply with all applicable procurement rules of the Government of the Virgin Islands and with the Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide often referred to as the PAPPG. We have since resolved this challenge and have been working collaboratively with multiple vendors to procure the critically needed equipment to ensure timely acquisition, delivery and installation, all of which is slated to be delivered to the facility by November 2026.

Rest assured, we to date have successfully completed the installation of all Critical Infrastructure to include all Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing, (MEP) Fire Protection, (FP) IT and Low Voltage (IT/LV) Systems which are in place and operational. Likewise, we have successfully procured both the Linear Accelerator and CT Simulator which are installed and operational while we await the Physicist sign-off and acceptance.

With respect to the Myrah Keating Smith Community Health Center (MKSCHC), through the Office of Disaster Recovery and as a part of the "project bundling," the Joint Venture of Consigli/Benton was selected for various projects on the island of St. John to include the demolition and reconstruction of the MKSCHC. As recently as last week, the Leadership of

SRMC and MKS collaborated with the Architect of Record, the SmithGroup, and the THRT to begin finalizing the clinical, administrative, and the service space program as well as to explore various design aspects of the new healthcare facility. Just prior to this presentation, the THRT had been culminating its efforts with the Department of Planning and Natural Resources as a part of the initial requirements to enable the demolition to commence. Fresh off the Press, the Federal Consistency Determination was received Monday, August 10, 2026, which will facilitate the next steps to proceed with geotechnical investigations of the site as well as to commence with the demolition of Myrah Keating Smith. With this crucial step now behind us, the next order of business is to obtain federal environmental approval for the demolition. We remain confident that these efforts will result in favorable approval, whereby we can commence with demolition before the end of the calendar year 2026. Concurrently, the construction manager at risk, Consigli/Benton Joint Venture 1, will soon publicly issue a request for proposals, RFP, for the selection of a subcontractor to perform the demolition services to align with the commencement before the end of the year.

With respect to the reconstruction of the Roy L. Schneider Hospital (RLSH), the Office of Disaster Recovery posted a publicly advertised formal solicitation resulting in participation from several nationally qualified General Contracting firms responsive to the Hospital's full replacement and subsequent demolition of the existing facility. The Construction Management at Risk or "CMAR" Construction Delivery Method has been forwarded, consistent with other major Healthcare project solicitations in the Territory. The final selection of a CMAR for the RLSH Replacement is anticipated in late August 2026.

THRT, SRMC Leadership and Architect of Record shall initiate Program Verification early September 2026 through December 2026 to update the existing program to meet the current financial setting. This effort shall be followed by Design, Reviews, Documentation along with Early Award GMP Packages from January '27 – November '28. The final design plans and specification packages would be substantially completed.

After the award, and upon the completion of the contracting and onboarding of the CMAR phase has been completed, it is anticipated three (3) early design packages shall be collaboratively coordinated with the CMAR to enable advanced work efforts with major subcontractors to expedite the project schedule while facilitating various long lead equipment early procurement for time and cost savings. Examples include:

1. Structural: Steel for the Hospital's Super Structure
2. Mechanical: Air Cooled Chillers, Boilers, Air Handlers
3. Electrical: Transformers, Switch Gear, Emergency Generators, Transfer Switches, Fire Alarm
4. Plumbing: Water Tanks, Oxygen Generation Equipment, Medical Gas Equipment, Fire Pumps
5. Medical Equipment: Major & Minor Fixed Movable Medical Equipment

Based on the approach outlined above, Construction for the RLSH Replacement Hospital could commence in late Fall 2028.

While these reconstruction efforts may seem daunting, the THRT will continue collaborating with the Office of Disaster Recovery, Stantec, the CMAR that will be soon selected and our Federal and regulatory partners to ensure that we remain transparent with our (TBOD),

the Leadership of the Roy L. Schneider Hospital, the hard-working staff of RLSH and equally important, our St. Thomas and St. John community.

The THRT, Territorial Board, and Executive Leadership Teams from JFLH and SRMC continue to strive for optimization and to establish unified standards so that medical and clinical programs remain consistent at all facilities. This is vitally important for the sustainability, resiliency, operability, and maintenance of these major investments. Once completed, our facilities will be state-of-the-art healthcare facilities for the people of the Virgin Islands.

As I conclude my brief project update, I want to thank this body for your continued support for the office of the Territorial Hospital Redevelopment Team in both the St. Croix and the St. Thomas/St. John Districts. To my Team, I want to publicly thank each of you for your continued dedication, commitment, and most importantly, your tireless efforts to this mission we have embarked upon. Thank You!

This concludes my update on the status of the rebuilding efforts specific to the Charlotte Kimelman Cancer Institute, the Myrah Keating Smith Community Health Center and the Roy L. Schneider Hospital. I will remain available to answer questions at the appropriate time. At this time, I would like to return the presentation to Chief Executive Officer Darlene A. Baptiste.