

Candler  
County



Hospital

Caring For Our Community

Main Entrance





## Who are we?

25-bed community hospital

County Owned

Hospital Authority Governed

Managed by ERH Healthcare

# What do we do?

- Inpatient Medical
- Intensive Care Unit
- Swingbed Rehabilitation
- Outpatient Services
- Outpatient Surgery
- Emergency Room
- Primary Care



# Why do we do it?

- Rural residents deserve quality healthcare close to home.
- We can offer care as good or better than our neighbors.
- Economic catalyst for the community
- Our patients need us



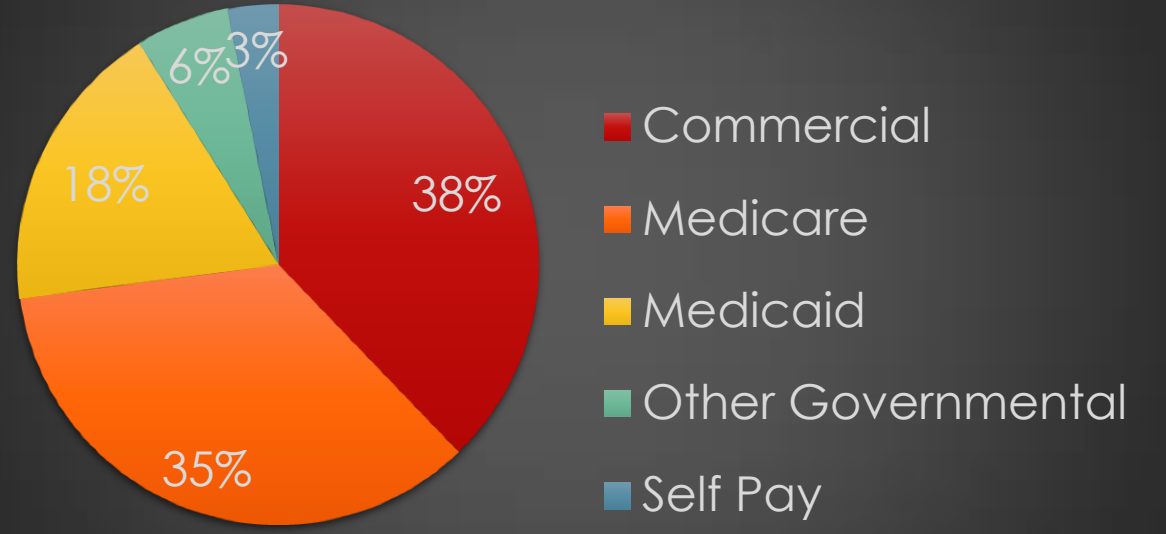
# Challenges

- \$1.6 Million in indigent and charity care
- County Population – 11,000
- Median Income - \$30,000
- GA Median Inc - \$46,007

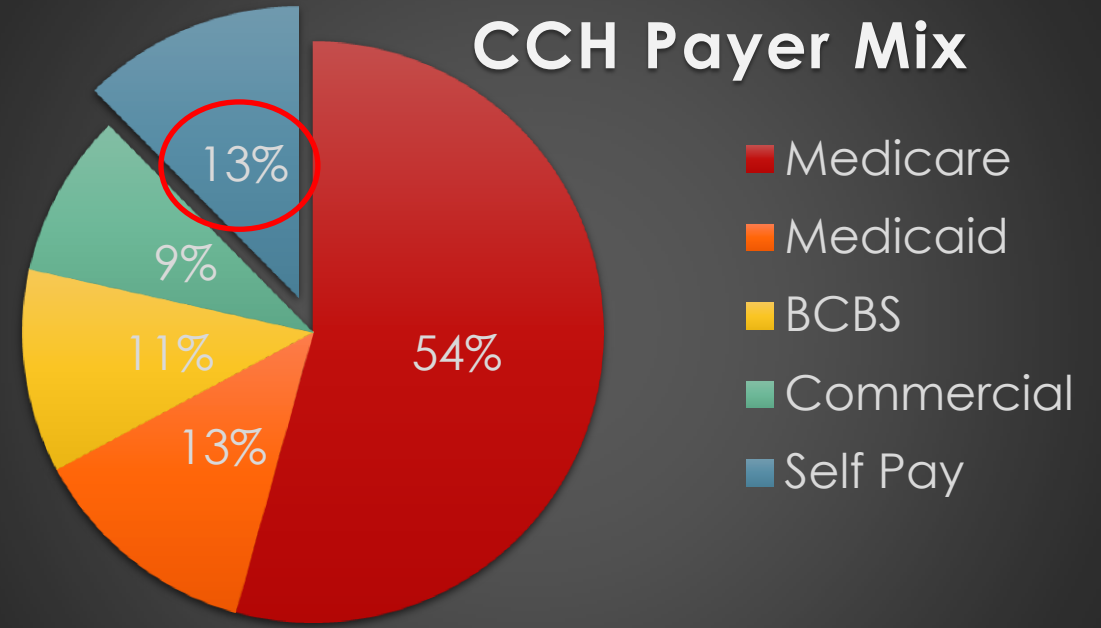




## National Average Payer Mix



## CCH Payer Mix



# Challenges, continued...

- **Legacy Debt**
- **Aging Facility and Equipment**
- **Payer Contracts**
- **Provider Recruitment**

# Competition

- East Georgia Regional Medical Center – Statesboro
  - For profit hospital
- Meadows Regional Medical Center – Vidalia
  - Community funded new hospital
- Optim Medical Center – Reidsville
  - For profit health system





# Collaborations



## Candler County Board of Commissioners



**7-Member Appointed Board  
Hospital Authority of Candler County**

# Failures

- Failure to address insufficient Medicaid reimbursement – 20% of *allowable* charges
- SB 258 is an indirect, short term, stop-gap measure - needs to be a 100% credit.
- Support for growing indigent care costs – ICTF needs to cover a larger percentage of costs.
- No effective restructure plan – e.g. Free-Standing Emergency Rooms
- Delays in UPL payments
- Provider Tax



# Successes

**GEORGIA HEART**<sup>SM</sup>  
HOSPITAL PROGRAM  
*Helping Enhance Access to Rural Treatment*

New Surgical Equipment

Patient Room Renovation

Physical Therapy Updates

Physician Recruitment

Information Systems Upgrades

Plant Equipment Upgrades

Debt Reduction

# Successes, continued...

- **Physician Assistant Loan Repayment Program**
- **Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Loan Repayment Program**
- **Newborn/OB Add on Payments**
- **Rural Hospital Stabilization Grants**

# CCH Successes

- ERH Shared Services
- BCBS Contract Negotiation
- Upgrades to Equipment
- Swingbed Rehabilitation Program
- Growth of Specialty Care



# Recommendations

- Preservation of Indigent Care Trust Fund
- Medicaid Payment Increases
- Rural Hospital Tax Credit Change
- Physician Incentives
- Collaboration Incentives

