COUNTY DEPARTMENT AGENDA REQUEST

Department:	Board of Commissioners	Presenter(s):	Board of Commissioners
Meeting Date:	Thursday, March 24, 2011	Type of Request:	Presentation/Recognition

Wording for the Agenda:

Presentation of a Proclamation designating April 16 as "Healthcare Decision Day".

Background/History/Details:

Piedmont Fayette Hospital has undertaken a effort to create awareness of the importance of planning ahead for health care decisions, particularly for end of life care and medical decision-making. A part of their efforts is to have local officials proclaim April 16, 2011 as "Healthcare Decisions Day" in Fayette County.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Issue the Proclamation and recognize Hospital officias in attendance. Will need to take a picture.

If this item requires funding, please describe:

No funding required.

Has this issue come before the Commissioners in the past?	No	If so, when?	
Do you need audio-visual for the presentation?	No	Back-up Material Submitted?	Yes

STAFF USE ONLY

Approved by Finance	Not Applicable	Reviewed by Legal	Yes
Approved by Purchasing	Not Applicable	Approved by County Clerk	Yes
Administrator's Approval	Yes		

Staff Notes:

PROCLAMATION
"Healthcare Decisions Day"

WHEREAS, *Healthcare Decisions Day* is designed to raise public awareness of the need to plan ahead for health care decisions, related to end of life care and medical decision-making whenever patients are unable to speak for themselves and to encourage the specific use of advance directives to communicate these important health care decisions; and

WHEREAS, Advance Directives offer valuable guidance and assurance that during a time of critical healthcare need, healthcare decisions will be executed and honored in accordance with patients' wishes; and

WHEREAS, in Georgia, the Georgia Advance Directive for Health Care Act provides the specifics of our advance directives law and offers a model form for patient use; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that only about 20 percent of people in Fayette County, Georgia have executed an advance directive. Moreover, it is estimated that less than 50 percent of severely or terminally ill patients have an advance directive to guide their healthcare in the event that they cannot speak for themselves; and

WHEREAS, it is likely that a significant reason for these low percentages is that there is both a lack of knowledge and considerable confusion in the public about Advance Directives; and

WHEREAS, one of the principal goals of *Healthcare Decisions Day* is to encourage hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, continuing care retirement communities, and hospices to participate in a State-wide effort to provide clear and consistent information to the public about advance directives, as well as to encourage medical professionals and lawyers to volunteer their time and efforts to improve public knowledge and increase the number of Fayette County Georgia citizens with advance directives; and

WHEREAS, Piedmont Fayette Hospital and other organizations throughout Georgia have endorsed this event and are committed to educating the public about the importance of discussing health care choices and executing advance directives; and

WHEREAS, as a result of April 16, 2011, being recognized as *Healthcare Decisions Day* in Fayette County, Georgia, more citizens will have conversations about their health care decisions; more citizens will execute Advance Directives to make their wishes known; and fewer families and health care providers will have to struggle with making difficult health care decisions in the absence of guidance from the patient;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, do hereby recognize April 16, 2011, as **"HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY"** in Fayette County, Georgia, and in doing so we hope to inform and encourage our citizens to give careful consideration to the difficult decisions we and our loved ones may face in the future.

So proclaimed this 24th day of March, 2011, by the

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Herbert E. Frady

Herbert E. Frady, Chairman