

NEWS RELEASE:

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On-Call Media Beeper: (828) 444-1149

Pardee Hospital finalizes fiscal year 2008 budget

(Hendersonville, N.C.) Earlier today, the Pardee Board of Directors approved the hospital budget for the fiscal year 2008. Throughout the process, the board and hospital administration worked diligently to improve the hospital's financial position and develop a budget that generates a healthy operating margin.

“As part of the budget process, we reviewed a number of the programs and services Pardee provides to the community and considered changes that would allow our organization to re-enforce our focus on the core healthcare services needed in our community” said Kris Hoce, CEO, Pardee Hospital. “By restructuring some programs, we will be able to direct more financial resources and expertise to enhancing existing programs and developing new ones to respond to the community's healthcare needs.”

After spending considerable time analyzing ways to improve the financial performance of the organization and reviewing possible options for the continued operation of the Pardee Care Center, the board decided to seek proposals from qualified and reputable nursing home operators who are interested in purchasing the Pardee Care Center facility. A request for proposals is expected to be released in early November with the intent to have the purchase completed by the end of March 2008.

“The board is interested in attracting a company that specializes in providing reputable long-term care services with the highest quality care. In addition, the board will give priority to a company that expresses the intent to continue the employment of the current associates at Pardee Care Center,” said Marcia Caserio, chair of the Pardee Hospital Board of Directors. “The best interests of our residents and associates will remain our top priority in the process. Our goal is to make this a seamless transition for the Pardee Care Center residents, associates and the hospital.”

A decision was also made to close the eight-bed Medical Detox unit designed to detoxify patients from alcohol and other chemical substances. Effective Dec. 1, patients who come to the emergency department and need medical detoxification will receive care in the inpatient units of the hospital, where they were served prior to the unit opening in 2006. The Human Resources Department is working closely with Medical Detox Unit associates to identify other available positions within the organization in order to retain these professionals.

Effective Jan. 1, 2008, the Western Carolina Medical Associates (WCMA) Fletcher office will be relocated to the WCMA Hendersonville location, and Chona Reguyal, M.D., and her medical assistant, Christina Bland, will start seeing patients at the Hendersonville office. This change will help improve the financial position of WCMA while allowing Pardee to continue to serve the primary care needs of our community.

“It’s essential for Pardee to have a healthy operating margin in order for our organization to continue meeting the strategic healthcare needs of our growing community, and these changes will allow us to achieve that,” said Hoce. “Our vision at Pardee is to distinguish ourselves as the healthcare provider that creates true value for the patient, physician and the community.”

Pardee Hospital is a not-for-profit community hospital founded in 1953. The main hospital is licensed for 222 acute care beds and is the second largest employer in Henderson

County. The hospital has several locations separate from the main campus, including an adult day services center, health education center in the Blue Ridge Mall, home care services, rehab and wellness center, midwifery program, various family and internal medicine practices, and urgent care facility. More information is available at www.pardeehospital.org.

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