

NEWS RELEASE:

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Grant keeps Pardee's Detox Unit open for another year

(Hendersonville, N.C.) The Pardee Hospital Board of Directors voted Tuesday to enter into negotiations with Western Highlands to continue the operations of the hospital's eight-bed Medical Detoxification Unit for one year with a \$350,000 grant from the regional mental health agency.

Western Highlands' board of directors, which includes government leaders from the region's eight counties, voted unanimously to make the offer to Pardee in a special session on Monday. The unit, which opened in July 2006, is designed to detoxify patients from alcohol and other chemical substances.

Last month, the Pardee Board of Directors voted to close the unit on Dec. 1 to help improve the hospital's financial position. After receiving the offer from Western Highlands, the board held an emergency meeting Tuesday to consider the proposal. The board voted to authorize hospital leadership to negotiate with Western Highlands to accept the grant to keep the unit open for another year. The grant requires Pardee's Detox Unit to serve residents of the eight-county region.

"After careful consideration of Western Highlands' offer and given the significant impact of the program on our community and region, the board voted to keep the Medical Detox Unit open for another year," said Kris Hoce, CEO of Pardee Hospital. "Our program is the only one of

its kind in the region, and this additional funding will allow us time to perform further analysis and determine the feasibility of developing an effective strategy to keep the unit operational in the years to come.”

According to Hoce, the agreement with Western Highlands will need to include a provision to allow Pardee to continue to oversee all operations of the unit and manage patient admissions, with the assurance that Henderson County residents receive priority. Control measures will also need to be included to ensure that the hospital’s Emergency Department does not experience unnecessary burden as a result. The hospital will also recommend that the agreement have the provision for review and consideration on a quarterly basis, and the hospital will have the option to discontinue the grant if deemed necessary.

“We appreciate this generous offer from Western Highlands and look forward to working with them to finalize the agreement and start developing a plan that could ensure the continued operations of the Medical Detox Unit,” said Hoce.

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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