



NEWS RELEASE:

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Pardee in discussions with UNC Health Care about potential affiliation

(Hendersonville, N.C.) Pardee Hospital has entered into an agreement to explore a possible relationship with University of North Carolina Health Care System (UNC HCS). UNC HCS is a not-for-profit, integrated health care system located in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Along with Pardee Hospital, UNC HCS has been recognized nationally for patient centered care that focuses on providing safe, cost-effective, and quality healthcare services.

Current discussions between the Pardee Hospital Board of Directors and UNC HCS are focused on a collaboration that would provide opportunities to enhance Pardee's current clinical services and develop additional services that meet the needs of the people in Henderson County. As well, there may be cost savings that are developed across both organizations. The structure of this relationship is yet to be determined, but the sale of Pardee Hospital is not a consideration.

"The Henderson County Board of Commissioners initiated these discussions with UNC HCS in concert with the Pardee Board. We are pleased that the Pardee Board is acting on our joint discussions to explore an enhanced relationship with UNC Health Care. The entire Board of Commissioners is very excited about both the short-term and long-term possibilities this potential partnership brings to the citizens of our county," stated Michael Edney, Chairman, Henderson County Board of Commissioners.





William Lapsley, Pardee Hospital Board Chair commented, "It's the Board's desire to support our growing population and their need for quality healthcare services. These discussions explore that initiative. Our mission, as a locally owned, locally governed hospital is to look forward to meet the healthcare needs of the residents who utilize Pardee Hospital." Lapsley continued, "The residents of Henderson County who have supported Pardee Hospital for the last 57 years have seen the hospital's growth in services that are important to the people of Henderson County. We want to continue those quality services in partnership with physicians and area providers. We will keep all our stakeholders updated on a periodic basis of the discussions with UNC Health Care."

An affiliation between Pardee Hospital and UNC HCS may improve access and delivery of medical services in Henderson County and enhance medical education programs currently in place in Western North Carolina.

Pardee Hospital is the only hospital owned by the residents of Henderson County. Founded in 1953, it is a not-for-profit hospital 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, a health education center in the Blue Ridge Mall, home care services, a rehab and wellness center, various physician practices, and an urgent care facility. For more information or to find a physician, call 1-866-790-WELL (9355) or visit www.pardeehospital.org.

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