

Joint News Release
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Pardee Hospital

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Pardee and Mission agree to explore joint medical services

Hendersonville, NC and Asheville, NC (July 3, 2007) -- Margaret R. Pardee Memorial Hospital in Hendersonville and Mission Health & Hospitals in Asheville have agreed to begin discussions about how they may collaborate to offer outpatient services in the future to meet the healthcare needs of the rapidly growing corridor along the border of Buncombe and Henderson Counties.

The agreement was shared Monday evening with the medical staff and employees at both hospitals, and it provides the framework for the hospitals to discuss appropriate means by which they might explore ways to make services more available and convenient.

Working together to improve quality, efficiency and access to care is in the best interests of the people of Henderson and Buncombe Counties, agreed Marcia Caserio, chair of the Pardee Hospital Board of Directors, and John F.A.V. "Jack" Cecil, chairman of Mission Health and Hospitals board of directors.

"The best way to achieve this is by working with organizations that have shared values and missions," said Joe Damore, president and CEO of Mission Health & Hospitals.

"We believe this agreement accomplishes the goals of quality, efficiency and access to care for both hospitals and brings significant benefit to the residents of Henderson and Buncombe Counties," added Sally Davenport, interim CEO and chief nurse executive of Pardee Hospital.

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 a 130-bed nursing facility, an adult day services center, a health education center in the Blue Ridge Mall, home care services, a sports therapy and rehabilitation facility, a midwifery program, various family and internal medicine practices and an urgent care facility.

Mission Hospitals, Western North Carolina's tertiary care medical center, is a member of the Mission Health system. Based in Asheville, N.C., it provides specialty heart, surgical, neurological, trauma, pediatric and neonatal care throughout the region.

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