

# Harnett Health System

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For Additional Information:  
Jennifer Franklin, Public Relations  
(910) 892-1000, ext. 4960  
jfranklin@bjrh.org

### **North Carolina Court of Appeals Rules in Favor of Harnett Health System's Bid to Build a 50-Bed Hospital in Central Harnett County**

**DUNN, N.C. (January 15, 2008)** Today, the Harnett Health System (HHS) learned the North Carolina Court of Appeals voted three to zero in support of the not-for-profit health system's plans to build a new 50-bed hospital in central Harnett County. This upholds the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services decision in February 2007 to award the Certificate of Need (CON) for the new hospital to the Harnett Health System.

"We're obviously pleased by the outcome of the Court of Appeals," commented Ken Bryan, president and CEO of the HHS. "Our Board of Directors, the County Commissioners, City of Dunn officials, WakeMed, our employees, physicians and countless others remain committed to serving the citizens of Harnett County and surrounding communities with comprehensive, quality health services. This decision now enables the HHS to begin building the full-service 50 bed hospital that will serve the residents living in and around central Harnett County."

The appeals to the HHS CON submitted to the Court of Appeals in February 2007 have delayed the timeline for building the new hospital. "The HHS continued to move forward while under appeal and completed the first of four phases of architectural design work. In addition, we successfully gained CON approval to locate the hospital campus in the Brightwater Science and Technology Campus across from the county courthouse. This site is ideal for attracting related medical research and educational businesses," Bryan adds. "Over the last year, we have had the opportunity to meet with hundreds of residents across the county to present our plans for the new hospital and hear first hand their needs for health services. This input will further help us design the promised full service hospital."

The HHS plans to break ground on the new hospital in the fall of 2008. If you would like to have the HHS provide a presentation on the new hospital, contact Jennifer Franklin at Betsy Johnson Regional Hospital.

Harnett Health System is comprised of Betsy Johnson Regional Hospital, Harnett County, the City of Dunn and WakeMed Health & Hospitals, which manages Betsy Johnson Regional Hospital. The system will be locally controlled by a 13-member board with citizen representation from across Harnett County.

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