

**Contact: McKinley Perkinson**  
CMH Marketing Services  
Phone (434) 447-3151 Ext. 3925  
Fax (434) 774-2485  
Email – mckinley.perkinson@cmh-sh.org

125 Buena Vista Circle  
P.O. Box 90  
South Hill, VA 23970

**Community Memorial Healthcenter**

## **News Release:**

### **Community Memorial Healthcenter and VCU Health System To Join Operations**

**Affiliation will enhance range and depth of quality healthcare for region**

South Hill, Va. (April 7, 2014) – Community Memorial Healthcenter (CMH) in South Hill, Va., and the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System in Richmond today announced they have entered into an agreement to join operations to expand the range and depth of healthcare delivery for residents of Southside Virginia and northern North Carolina.

The agreement is expected to be completed by June 30 pending all federal and state regulatory approvals. CMH will become a part of the VCU Health System. The new local entity will become VCU Community Memorial Hospital (CMH). With the affiliation, the VCU Health System will commit a minimum of \$75 million in new strategic investments in CMH, including a new hospital facility, healthcare technologies, clinical initiatives and physician recruitment.

CMH Board Chairman Wayne Parrish remarked, “Over the past eighteen months or so, the Affiliation Steering Committee, chaired by Mr. John Lee and co-chaired by Mr. Denny Hardee, engaged in a thorough assessment of business relationships and potential suitors with the goal of identifying a long-term strategic partner that would work with CMH to create a preeminent health care facility for our region.”

The affiliation brings together two high-performing organizations; combining the clinical expertise of the community based hospital with the nationally ranked programs of the VCU Medical Center under the umbrella of the VCU Health System.

CMH, which has received numerous state and national recognitions for quality patient care and customer service, is licensed for 99 acute care and 161 long-term care beds and provides a wide array of inpatient and outpatient services. It is one of the area’s largest employers with approximately 800 employees, 200 volunteers and 85 physicians who represent more than 30 medical specialties.

The VCU Health System already has a presence at CMH through a partnership with the VCU Massey Cancer Center that provides outpatient medical hematology-oncology and radiation oncology. In addition, the organizations have a rich history of collaboration in providing other clinical and educational services.

With the affiliation, CMH employees join about 9,000 VCU Health System employees. There will continue to be a CMH board of directors, with both local and VCU Health System appointments.

Under the new structure, leaders from surrounding communities and CMH will continue to represent local interests on governance and strategic planning, and the CMH Foundation will continue to be a vital philanthropic arm of CMH.

“By combining resources, the VCU Health System and CMH can do more to improve the health of the community than either could do independently,” said Michael Rao, president of VCU and the VCU Health System. “Working together as part of an academic medical center will ensure the residents of southern Virginia have access to our nationally recognized specialists.”

Chairman John Lee said, “This announcement represents the culmination of an extensive, disciplined and in-depth affiliation study conducted by a committee of CMH stakeholders including community leaders, physicians and CMH leadership. Our committee’s charge was driven by a desire to ensure CMH’s long term sustainability, and allow it to not only continue its legacy of high quality healthcare offerings, but to expand and enhance its services, and do so from a new state of the art hospital worthy of those CMH is here to serve. We recognized that meeting those objectives would likely require the ongoing support and clout of a world class organization, and this mutually beneficial relationship with the VCU Health System very successfully accomplishes all those goals.” Lee continued by saying that the Affiliation Committee looked for a strategic partner who shares CMH’s culture, mission, vision and values and one who would commit to strengthening the CMH employee workforce and enhancing healthcare for this region.

“Both organizations are deeply committed to improving the health of the communities they serve, and we recognized that joining forces with the VCU Health System enhances our ability to fulfill our mission. We are excited about the future of healthcare for this region,” said W. Scott Burnette, president and CEO of Community Memorial Healthcenter.

More details of the affiliation and the new look for CMH will be unveiled at a news conference in June.

#### **About Community Memorial Healthcenter**

*Community Memorial Healthcenter (CMH) provides comprehensive medical, surgical and long-term care services for the residents of Southern Virginia and Northern North Carolina. Since 1954, CMH’s employees, physicians, volunteers and board of directors have worked to fulfill the hospital’s mission of providing excellence in the delivery of healthcare. For more information about Community Memorial Healthcenter visit [www.cmh-sh.org](http://www.cmh-sh.org).*

#### **About VCU and the VCU Medical Center**

*Virginia Commonwealth University is a major, urban public research university with national and international rankings in sponsored research. Located in downtown Richmond, VCU enrolls more than 31,000 students in 223 degree and certificate programs in the arts, sciences and humanities. Sixty-eight of the programs are unique in Virginia, many of them crossing the disciplines of VCU’s 13 schools and one college. MCV Hospitals and the health sciences schools of Virginia Commonwealth University comprise the VCU Medical Center, one of the nation’s leading academic medical centers. For more, see [www.vcu.edu](http://www.vcu.edu).*