



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CERTIFICATE OF NEED APPROVED FOR
LEE COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER**

Georgia Department of Community Health approves new 60-bed hospital to expand local healthcare access in Southwest Georgia

LEESBURG, Ga. (Nov. 15, 2017) – The Lee County Commissioners announced today that the Georgia Department of Community Health (Department) has approved the Certificate of Need (CON) application for Lee County Medical Center. Although the decision may be appealed with the Department’s approval, the County is another step closer to expanding local healthcare access for the residents of Lee County and Southwest Georgia.

“This is an exciting milestone for our County,” said Billy Mathis, Lee County Commission Vice Chairman. “Our number one priority is to do what’s right for our community, and we appreciate the Department’s effort in allowing us to provide the high-quality healthcare our community wants and deserves.”

Over the past several months, the County has been working with a team of experts to provide a choice in local hospital services. The new 60-bed general hospital will be a full-service healthcare provider, offering both acute and emergency care services such as an ICU, medical/surgical unit, inpatient and outpatient services, MRI and CT scan capabilities and more.

“We are extremely pleased with the Department’s CON approval,” said G. Edward Alexander, President and CEO of LCMC OPCO, LLC, the company that will operate and manage Lee County Medical Center. “Throughout this process, it’s been clear that there is a strong need for increased access to affordable, quality care. I am proud to be part of this effort, and I hope that others will join me in securing the future of healthcare for the Southwest Georgia region.”

“This new, state-of-the-art hospital will provide patients with the care they need, regardless of ability to pay, and create much-needed competition in the local healthcare market,” said

Winston Oxford, Lee County Chamber of Commerce President. “We want to see our area be the best that it can be, and this new hospital will play a large role in building a better Lee County.”

Lee County Medical Center will provide more than 350 good-paying jobs, training opportunities for medical and professional students and a total economic impact of \$38 million.

“We are incredibly grateful and humbled by all of the support we have received over the past several months,” said Rick Muggridge, Lee County Commissioner. “Our mission remains the same in doing what’s best for our citizens, and we look forward to continuing this mission by providing access and improving quality care in our area.”

If all goes according to plan, the County expects to break ground on the hospital in early 2018.

About Lee County

Lee County, one of Georgia’s original 32 counties, is nestled in the heart of Southwest Georgia. A rapidly growing community, we offer a full range of services and amenities while maintaining a hometown atmosphere.

Lee County is a unique blend of residential, commercial and industrial development with a traditional rural flair. Interspersed with creeks, lakes, plantations, and historical sites, the community offers excellent recreational opportunities that take full advantage of the moderate climate and beautiful landscape.

Our warm, friendly population includes many young families attracted by Lee County’s award-winning school system. Located within the Albany metro area, Lee County experienced a 12.51% increase in population between 2000 and 2010 and ranks 61st in population out of 159 Georgia counties.

Lee County is dedicated to encouraging a healthy mix of residential, commercial and industrial development while preserving the county’s rural setting and heritage. Our community’s commitment to quality, well-planned growth ensures Lee County will thrive for years to come.

For more information, please visit www.lee.ga.us.

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