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CarePartners Health Services Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Mission Health

(April 3, 2013) – At the invitation of CarePartners Health Services (CarePartners), Mission Health has entered into a non-binding memorandum of understanding (MOU) for CarePartners to become an affiliated member of the Mission Health system. The signed MOU symbolizes the beginning of a collaboration that will ultimately enhance patient care in Western North Carolina.

“We are honored to enter into a formal affiliation with Mission Health,” said Tracy Buchanan, PT, MBA, President and CEO of CarePartners Health Services. “As a trusted partner and leader in health care, Mission Health’s goals align with our vision of improving the delivery of health care for our patients and communities. This affiliation will enhance our ability to extend our network of care while working with a nationally recognized Top 15 Health System.”

The MOU outlines the major terms of the proposed relationship between CarePartners and Mission Health. The due diligence process will begin immediately and a definitive contractual agreement will be finalized at the completion of the process.

“The emerging health care environment requires providers to explore more integrated delivery systems for the best possible patient care,” said Dr. Myron Smith III, a member of the CarePartners Board of Directors and an orthopedic surgeon with Blue Ridge Bone and Joint. “Together, CarePartners and Mission will discover and pursue opportunities for more timely, efficient and appropriate care delivery systems to help achieve exceptional clinical outcomes.”

CarePartners identified Mission Health as an ideal partner to help further its commitment to improving the health and wellness of the community. The two health care organizations have developed an increasingly close, positive and collaborative relationship over the years. Through this affiliation, patients will benefit from acute and post-acute care expertise from both CarePartners and Mission Health in the development of clinical services and quality care delivery systems. CarePartners and Mission Health are committed to providing exceptional service—Mission Health for acute care and CarePartners for post-acute care. This affiliation will allow them to better manage patient transitions over the entire continuum—from the acute through the post-acute care setting. Both organizations are committed to identifying opportunities for innovation and developing programs to meet the community’s needs.

“CarePartners is a strong and valued member of the Western North Carolina community,” said Ronald A. Paulus, MD, President and CEO of Mission Health. “It is a privilege to collaborate with an organization that has, over the years, gained the community’s respect for their exceptional health care services. Through this affiliation, we will take advantage of our organizations’ shared strengths to enhance the quality and improve the value of the services available to the communities we jointly serve. We all know that the entire health care system must continually improve its quality while constraining costs. Our relationship with CarePartners will help both of us serve the community more effectively.”

About CarePartners Health Services

CarePartners Health Services, which recently received its second consecutive Governor’s Award for Performance Excellence in Healthcare, is a local, not-for-profit health care organization serving Western North Carolina. On any given day CarePartners provides quality health services to more than 3,000 patients across the full continuum of post-acute care in the following service areas: Rehabilitation Hospital, Home Health, Outpatient Rehabilitation, Hospice, Palliative Care, Adult Day, Private Duty and Orthotics & Prosthetics. With approximately 1,100 employees and 400 volunteers, CarePartners Health Services is dedicated to helping people of Western North Carolina live full and productive lives, despite illness, injury, disability or issues related to aging. For more information, please visit carepartners.org.

About Mission Health

Mission Health, based in Asheville, N.C., is the state’s sixth-largest health system and the region’s only not-for-profit, independent community hospital system governed and managed exclusively in Western North Carolina. In 2012 Mission Health was named one of the nation’s Top 15 Health Systems by Thomson Reuters – the only health system in North Carolina to receive this recognition.

Mission Health, which traces its roots in the region back to 1885, operates five hospitals, numerous outpatient and surgery centers, and the region’s only dedicated Level II trauma center. Its medical staff consists of more than 1,000 physicians certified in over 50 medical specialties and sub-specialties. Mission Health has seven Centers of Excellence: Cancer, Heart, Mission Children’s Hospital, Neurosciences, Orthopedics, Trauma and Women’s Health. Mission Hospital, located in Asheville, is the system’s flagship hospital and is licensed for 730 beds. It is the regional referral center for tertiary and quaternary care. It also includes Mission Children’s Hospital – the region’s only children’s hospital. Other Mission Health member hospitals include Angel Medical Center in Franklin, Blue Ridge Regional Hospital in Spruce Pine, McDowell Hospital in Marion and Transylvania Regional Hospital in Brevard. With approximately 8,800 employees and 700 volunteers, Mission Health is dedicated to improving the health and wellness of the people of Western North Carolina. For more information, please visit mission-health.org.