



NEWS RELEASE
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Gooding County Memorial Hospital & St. Luke's Health System Sign Contract & Enter into Non-Profit Partnership

For the first time in the State of Idaho, a partnership has been formed between a hospital taxing district and an outside partner to create a non-profit hospital corporation.

Recently officials with Gooding County Memorial Hospital and the St. Luke's Health System signed the final contract and articles of incorporation to create a new non-profit hospital corporation to serve the Gooding County area.

Fully incorporated, officials at Gooding County Memorial Hospital will now move forward with a judicial review of the contract, a requirement within the agreement. The contract will be submitted to the Gooding County Judicial System where the county judge will conduct a detailed review of the contract & language to determine that all elements of the enacted contract are legal and appropriate. Once reviewed, the courts will issue a decision. If approved, the new partnership will begin officially transitioning governance of the hospital to the partnership, and have the ability to fully finance their plans to build a new hospital.

The partnership allows for board participation by both the Gooding County Memorial Hospital District (84%) and the St. Luke's Health System (16%). "St Luke's willingness to participate in regionally planning services is a wonderful success for our community. This partnership is the result of a strong ten year relationship between the GCMH District and St. Luke's, and will assist our community in providing quality healthcare to our community for years to come," stated GCMH CEO Earl Fitzpatrick.

In preparation of the judicial review approval, officials at Gooding County Memorial Hospital have begun reviewing name options for the new non-profit corporation & planned new hospital. As part of the contract, Gooding County Memorial Hospital must change its current name to designate a separation from the old organization (a taxing district) to the new corporation. Dozens of name options were submitted by community members, when completing a survey on the partnership in late October, and will be considered. "We appreciate the excellent suggestions by the community for naming this new and exciting endeavor. The St. Luke's name cannot be utilized due to this being a partnership, not an ownership. The many ideas from our community have assisted us, as we look to distinguish our new organization and the region we serve," stated Mr. Fitzpatrick.

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