

For Immediate Release

October 4, 2017

Maria Parham Health Marketing

Contact: McKinley Perkinson, mckinley.perkinson@lpnt.net, (252) 436-1402

Bringing Care Back to Franklin County

By: Bert Beard, CEO, Maria Parham Health

Henderson, NC (October 4, 2017) – It's not every day that we get to tell a community that we are bringing care back, but that's exactly what we did when the Franklin County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to move forward with a lease agreement that will allow Maria Parham Health, Duke LifePoint Healthcare to re-open Franklin Medical Center. On behalf of Maria Parham, I can tell you that we are all so excited to be partnering with the Franklin County leaders, and we are honored that you have chosen to entrust the future of healthcare in Franklin County to our team.

This announcement is a big deal. This means that we will be able to bring vital healthcare services back to Franklin County, starting with emergency care. As you've hopefully heard, we expect to re-open the facility in mid to late summer as a freestanding emergency department. Between now and then, we will be working to renovate the facility and hire a team of clinical and support staff who will be your local care team. By the end of 2018, we plan to re-open the 13-bed behavioral health unit, which we know is a needed service in and around Franklin County.

Interestingly, it was this time last year that we first shared this plan with Franklin County leaders. Since then, we have continuously been impressed by the strong sense of community involvement and support that we've felt. I want to specifically thank State Senator Chad Barefoot who had the initial vision of connecting Duke LifePoint Healthcare with Franklin County and for his endless support in getting our plans approved by the state; Representative Chris Malone for leading the effort to create the Dorothea Dix Hospital Transformation Fund and for his role in helping secure more than \$10 million from the Fund so that we can quickly restore behavioral health services to the greater Franklin County community; Representatives Dr. Bobbie Richardson and Jeff Collins who have been staunch advocates with our state legislature and local constituents; and Mayor Karl Pernell, County Manager Angela Harris and Town Administrator Jonathan Franklin, as well as Sidney Dunston, Boyd Sturges and the entire Board of Commissioners who have worked tirelessly and collaboratively with our team to get to where we are today. I also want to thank the Board of Trustees and Board of Governors at Maria Parham Health and Duke Health. All of these individuals have been instrumental in our ability to move forward, and we are so appreciate of their ongoing support. And in a time when there are so many divisive political and social issues, it is refreshing to be a part of such a diverse group of people across a broad region who have come together for the betterment of the community.

Now as we prepare for the future, we will look to another key group for support – you. In order for us to continue expanding access to quality healthcare services in Franklin County and sustain them for generations to come, we need your support. We need you to entrust us with your healthcare needs and choose to keep your care local. And we know that by working together, we will be able to make our communities healthier now and long into the future.

###