

Fairmont Regional Medical Center to Begin Wind Down of Operations in an Effort to Facilitate a Long-Term Solution for Hospital Care in Fairmont, West Virginia

Fairmont, WV – February 18, 2019 – Fairmont Regional Medical Center in Fairmont, West Virginia (“FRMC”) today announced that after a thorough evaluation of all available options, losses of more than \$19 Million over the past 3 years, and an exhaustive, but unsuccessful, search for a strategic partner or buyer, the hospital has begun the process of winding down its operations. FRMC applauds Governor Justice’s formation of the Rural Medicine Task Force and is hopeful that a long-term solution for hospital care in Fairmont, West Virginia will be announced soon. FRMC has made the difficult decision to commence the wind down process in the hopes that it will help facilitate a long-term solution.

Like other hospitals in West Virginia and across the country that are closing, planning to close, or filing for bankruptcy protection, FRMC has faced a number of challenges including difficulties recruiting physicians, vigorous competition from larger health systems for patients and physicians, declining patient volumes, the inability to qualify as a critical access hospital or sole community hospital (and the increased reimbursement from Medicare that comes along with such designations) due to its geographic location and the geographic location of other hospitals, decreasing reimbursement from all payors, increasing operating costs, and a physical plant that has required improvements as it has aged. While FRMC has worked tirelessly to address these challenges, it has not been able to survive the combined impact of the challenges. FRMC will begin sending notices to its employees, as well as holding informational meetings this week to answer questions. The timing of the closure of specific medical services will be contingent upon maintaining adequate staffing, physician coverage, and/or patient volumes.

This plan is not FRMC’s preferred course of action. The unfortunate reality is that this is happening everywhere and community-based hospitals like FRMC are being hit the hardest. The Marion County community has always been supportive of the hospital and it has been appreciated. FRMC also greatly appreciates the efforts of all elected officials in working to help it look for solutions.