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**August 24, 2007**

## **Hospital Board Agrees On Joint Venture At Celina Medical Center**

The Mercer Health Board of Governors voted in favor of combining efforts with Grand Lake Health System in the expansion of the Celina Medical Center, 801 Pro Drive, Celina, near the Grand Lake Regional Cancer Center at their regular monthly meeting held on Wednesday, August 22.

Under the agreement, the Medical Center will be co-owned and operated by the two health systems. It will continue to house the current physician practices located there with the anticipation of adding more physicians. The jointly owned center will also have space available to operate a comprehensive medical imaging center and laboratory services.

Mercer Health Chief Executive Officer Jim Wermert says, "I think the Boards of both hospitals realized the expansion of services in Celina is very important to area residents and to both of the health systems. Credit should be given to both Boards that they were able to accomplish this without having to do so in separate projects that would have greatly increased the cost of health care to the community."

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“This cooperative effort will greatly enhance medical services in our communities,” says Kevin Harlan, President and CEO of Grand Lake Health System and Joint Township District Memorial Hospital.

“We will be able to provide more services in an efficient manner without costly duplication. It will be a win, win scenario for Grand Lake Health System, Mercer Health and the community.”

The two Health systems currently own and operate the Grand Lake Regional Cancer Center, located near the Medical Center in Celina, with three other hospitals as part of the West Central Ohio Regional Healthcare Alliance (WCORHA).

The 15,000 square foot expansion of the Celina Medical Center (currently 10,000 sq. ft.) is scheduled to be completed in early 2008.