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**GRAND ITASCA CLINIC AND HOSPITAL, RANGE REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES AND VIRGINIA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER BOARDS OF DIRECTORS SIGN PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY RESOLUTION**

Grand Rapids. (August 10, 2009), The Boards of Directors of the Grand Itasca Clinic & Hospital, Range Regional Health Services (RRHS) and Virginia Regional Medical Center (VRMC) have signed a Regional Care System Partnership Opportunity Resolution to develop a formalized process to explore regional collaboration opportunities between the three organizations.

The resolution is a first step toward developing a platform that will analyze the existing regional health care delivery models and provide an opportunity for pursuing new collaboration prospects. "This resolution demonstrates the commitment of our regional health care organizations and their leaders to providing high quality, cost-effective care, with local access to meet the emerging health care needs of our regional communities," said Barbara McDonald, chairperson of the Grand Itasca Clinic & Hospital Board of Directors.

Health care reimbursement complexities, fixed costs, and recruiting continue to place unprecedented challenges on local health care organizations. Board members and administrative representatives are looking at collaboration opportunities that will provide sustainable health care to the region and as a result improve community access and operational efficiencies. "This resolution presents an opportunity for the three organizations to enhance and add services as well as ways to collaborate on business and support services when appropriate" said Edie Carr, Chairperson of the RRHS Board of Directors.

“VRMC is very excited about exploring opportunities to work cooperatively with the facilities in Hibbing and Grand Rapids. There are many similarities between our organizations and we all have the same goal of providing quality care locally. It will be great to see what the future holds,” said Keith Harvey, CEO.

**Grand Itasca Clinic and Hospital**, a non-profit, integrated delivery system, is located on 76 acres west of Highway 169 and south of Highway 2 in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. The facility is home to a multi-specialty clinic of nearly 50 physicians including specialists in Orthopedics, Ob/Gyn, Pediatrics, Podiatry, Urology and Acute Rehabilitation, a 64-bed hospital, and the Grand Itasca Foundation.

**Range Regional Health Services** is a family of medical providers based in Hibbing, and includes University Medical Center-Mesabi, Mesaba Clinics (with locations in Hibbing, Nashwauk, and Mountain Iron), Mesaba Pharmacy and HealthLine - a home care, hospice and medical supply provider. RRHS offers more than 60 medical services, including ENT, surgery, urology, occupational therapy, cardiac rehabilitation, radiation therapy, sleep lab, sports medicine and obstetrics/gynecology, and also owns Greenview Alzheimer’s Residence, located on the medical campus.

**Virginia Regional Medical Center**, Virginia Regional Medical Center, an 83-bed hospital and 116-bed convalescent center, provides health care and medical services through an active medical staff of 43 physicians representing 22 specialty and subspecialty practices including orthopedics, OB/Gyn, neurology, urology and general surgery. Services include diabetes management, cardiac rehabilitation, inpatient rehab care, sleep lab and acute care.

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