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Georgia Regents to enter into management agreement with Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation

WARM SPRINGS, Ga. and AUGUSTA, Ga. – Georgia Regents University is signing an Interagency Agreement to manage the medical hospitals of Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation, in order to enhance the delivery of care at its rehabilitation and acute care hospitals beginning July 1.

The university will then contract with its cooperative organization, Georgia Regents Medical Center, to take over management of inpatient rehabilitation and long-term acute care services.

“This partnership brings together the Roosevelt legacy at Warm Springs with the state’s academic health system to enhance this historic campus,” said Greg Schmieg, Executive Director of the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA), the organization that currently operates the hospital facilities. “As the facilities approach their ninth decade as a world-class comprehensive medical and vocational rehabilitation center, this partnership with Georgia Regents University and Georgia Regents Medical Center will keep the ‘Spirit of Warm Springs’ alive and preserve an economic engine in Meriwether County.”

GVRA moved from underneath the Department of Labor to a stand-alone agency attached to the Department of Human Resources in 2012. Schmieg, head of the agency, realized that assistance may be needed in order for the medical facilities to reach their potential and to expand the state-of-the-art vocational training center located on the same Warm Springs campus. As a result, he contacted Georgia Regents University and Medical Center in March of 2012 and asked for assistance in managing the facility.

“This management agreement was developed because both parties, in conjunction with the Governor and our legislators, realized that this type of partnership will enable the modernization and improvement of hospital operations at Warm Springs – allowing our clinical care providers to better meet the needs of our community, as well as improve and expand our vocational services which prepare Georgians with disability to gain employment and independent living skills,” said Bill Bulloch, Roosevelt Warm Springs Executive Director.

“We are grateful for the state’s willingness to invest in the future of this historic landmark and to realize the goals of this partnership, namely to grow the facilities as a resource for our community, to further maximize federal “match” dollars for the GVRA, and to improve and expand the delivery of care.”

“We are excited to partner with the state to transform one of Georgia’s health care assets into a self-supporting and profitable enterprise,” said Shawn Vincent, Vice President of Partnerships and Strategic Affiliations at Georgia Regents. “Our goal is to improve and expand delivery of care in an effort to preserve, and eventually grow, the hospital facilities into an important economic engine for the region.”

Georgia Regents University currently manages the Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home, located in Augusta, as well as health care services at numerous off site locations, including more than 60 prison facilities throughout the State for the Georgia Department of Corrections.

“We will engage in due diligence to understand the current environment and infrastructure requirement – including patient care needs and operations – as well as workforce needs. Honoring and respecting the past, evaluating the present, and planning for the future will serve as our guide during the next several months,” Vincent said.

An initial assessment of the hospital’s workforce and a review of services, systems, and employee programs will take place during the next fiscal year. Other year-one objectives include increasing volume and revenue, leveraging a professional network, implementing best practices and reducing expenses. Renovations to the facilities will serve to extend service life, enhance operations and improve the patient and family experience.

“The Warm Springs values of ‘openness to change’ and a ‘can do attitude’ will be keys to future success. We will integrate our clinical, teaching, and administrative resources, as well as our Patient- and Family-Centered Care culture, with the state’s investment into the hospital’s patient care environment,” said Vincent. “Together with Roosevelt Warm Springs we will continue their legacy of providing skilled, compassionate care and the best possible outcome for those served.”

About Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation

Officially incorporated as a polio treatment center in 1927 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation has provided comprehensive medical and vocational rehabilitation for more than eight decades. As one of only eight state-managed rehabilitation centers in the country, its clinical operations include the Roosevelt Warm Springs Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital, which serves individuals who require 24-hour rehabilitation nursing care and intensive rehabilitation; and the Roosevelt Warm Springs Long Term Acute Care Hospital, which specializes in the treatment of medically complex patients who are suffering from a recent catastrophic illness or medical complication related to chronic illness or injury causing a decline in physical function. <http://gvra.georgia.gov/warmsprings/>

About Georgia Regents University and Georgia Regents Medical Center

Georgia Regents University (GRU) is one of four public comprehensive research universities in the state with nearly 10,000 students enrolled in its nine colleges and schools, which include the Medical College of Georgia – the nation’s 13th-oldest medical school – the nationally-ranked Hull College of Business and Georgia’s only College of Dental Medicine. The clinical enterprise associated with the university includes

the 478-bed Georgia Regents Medical Center and the 154-bed Children's Hospital of Georgia. GRU is a unit of the University System of Georgia and an equal opportunity institution. <http://www.gru.edu>

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