



"Quality Care Close to Home"

800 East Highway 71
Smithville, Texas 78957

SMITHVILLE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY NEWS

January 15, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Smithville Hospital Authority Board of Directors paved the way for several major activities at their last meeting. O'Connell, Robertson, and Associates, an Austin architectural firm, were approved to begin drawings for the expansion of Smithville Regional Hospital. Adding more than 29,000 square feet to the existing building, the \$7 million dollar project will consolidate imaging services, expand the emergency department, create new obstetrics space, and increase outpatient capabilities.

The Board also unanimously approved the choice of Foresight Consulting, Inc. of Colleyville, Texas. The consulting firm will initiate a formal health care needs assessment of the Bastrop County market. Providing the Board with data needed to make a decision on what additional services the Hospital might need to provide in the city of Bastrop, the assessment is expected to be completed in six to eight weeks. The assessment will cost \$11,000.

In other business, the Board reviewed recent security issues at the hospital and took the initial step of approving up to \$16,000 for the installation of a security camera monitoring system in key areas and the purchase of hand-held two-way radios to improve communications. Budgeting for armed security guards will be considered for the next fiscal year. Chief Executive Officer Dennis Jack indicates that security incidents are rare at the facility, but "it's important to ensure the safety of employees and patients."

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CALL:
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