

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bellville Hospital Operations to Transition to Bellville Hospital District

BRYAN, TEXAS (February 5, 2019) – CHI St. Joseph Health and Bellville Hospital District made the decision to end their operations lease agreement Tuesday, February 5, 2019. CHI St. Joseph Health will wind down hospital operations over a 90-day period, and as of May 7, 2019, will no longer operate Bellville Hospital. Bellville Hospital District intends to continue searching for a new partner to continue operations.

Bellville Hospital has a 90 year history in Austin County and is a special place for many residents. CHI St. Joseph Health began operations of Bellville Hospital in 2013. CHI St. Joseph Health and Bellville Hospital District have worked hard to overcome numerous challenges that confront a rural hospital in Texas, including declining patient volumes and reduced reimbursement rates.

Due to its geographic distance and Bellville’s designation as an acute care hospital, rather than a critical access hospital, it has been increasingly difficult to create a sustainable model of rural healthcare in the community. With Bellville and Austin County’s proximity to Houston and Katy, the community has access to many healthcare options.

“We are grateful for Bellville Hospital’s service to the Bellville community for the past 90 years,” said Theron Park, Market President and Chief Executive Officer of CHI St. Joseph Health. “This is an unfortunate situation, but we will work closely with the Bellville Hospital District in the coming months to help ensure patients continue to receive high-quality healthcare. We are doing everything we can to ensure that our employees are taken care of and to create an orderly transition. We sincerely thank them for the dedication they have given Bellville Hospital.”

“Bellville Hospital has been privileged to serve our community since 1928,” said Tony Causey, Board Chair for Bellville Hospital District. “We are focused on finding a partner to continue operations for our patients and employees during this process. We want to also thank the Bellville Hospital Foundation and Auxiliary for their years of dedicated financial support.”

In the coming weeks and months, we will share more information about the transition and wind down of operations and services. In the interim, we will continue to care for our patients and their families in accordance with our Mission and values.

Patients with questions about this transition and the changes that may follow related to their healthcare services can call 979-413-7128. The Bellville community can reach the Hospital District Board spokesperson at 979-270-1807.

Uninterrupted provision of care is the goal of the transition. During this time period, Bellville Hospital will remain in operation and changes in services will be announced as soon as they become available.

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About CHI St. Joseph Health

Since 1936 CHI St. Joseph Health has been caring for the communities of Bryan, College Station, Brenham, Hearne, Navasota, Caldwell, Madisonville and Bellville. With the area’s only Level II Trauma Center, the first Joint Commission–certified Primary Stroke Center and the first accredited Chest Pain Center in the Brazos Valley, CHI St. Joseph Health is a leader in critical care and the largest provider of cardiovascular care in the region.

About Bellville Hospital

St. Joseph Health–Bellville Hospital is a licensed acute-care facility offering imaging (including MRI, CT, digital x-ray, bone density, digital mammography, cardiac echo, ultrasound), outpatient therapy services, emergency care, laboratory service, surgical care, outpatient IV infusion services, and skilled nursing care. The hospital also provides a variety of specialties to the community including, internal and primary care ophthalmology, gastroenterology, orthopedics, ENT, podiatry, pain management, and cardiology.