

Hospital District Board Selects Preferred Management Corporation to Continue Operation of Kimble County Hospital District

Contact: Robert Bass
512-482-0701

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: After an extended period of advertising, review and consideration the Kimble County Hospital District Board of Directors on Wednesday evening interviewed the final candidates selected by the Board, and subsequently determined to retain the services of Preferred Management Corporation to continue operations of the Hospital.

Preferred Management Corporation, acting through Preferred Hospital Leasing Junction, Inc., has operated the Kimble Hospital since June 1, 2008. When Preferred assumed responsibility for the facility, the existing hospital buildings were in poor condition; there was not a hospital administrator or chief nursing officer; the business office did not have the ability to bill; there was no credentialing of physicians, and the District's plan to build a replacement facility was at a standstill.

Today, administrative, nursing and clinic management has stabilized, the business office functions well, the medical staff is sized to the needs of the community, and the current buildings (a 30,500-square foot hospital and 7,300 square foot clinic opened in 2011), are in excellent condition. The facility was designated a Trauma Level 4 Center, with Tele-radiology introduced in 2009, and Tele-neurology introduced in 2013. Plans for emergency Tele-medicine via fiber optic connectivity are well underway, which will allow the local medical staff to interface with highly qualified medical resources located elsewhere, will open doors for enhanced care at lower costs. The enhancement of services and overall hospital progress by the Kimble Hospital was recognized this year when Kimble Hospital was recognized as one of the Top 20 Overall Critical Access Hospitals in the U.S., the only Critical Access Hospital in Texas to receive that honor. This selection by the National Rural Health Association was based on eight indices of strength, including inpatient market share, outpatient market share, quality, outcomes, patient satisfaction, costs, charges and financial stability.

Claudette Primeaux, District Board Chair, explained the selection as follows: "We advertised our intent to consider qualified applicants in a national medical journal, and received responses to our Request for Qualifications from seven applicants. The seven responding applications were considered by the board, and were narrowed to three. These three were asked to make proposals for the operation of the Hospital. From these three, the final two candidates were interviewed in our last Board meeting. The Board, by a 6-1 vote, determined that continuing with a proven entity such as Preferred, who has made remarkable improvements during their tenure operating our facility, was in the best interest of the Hospital, the District taxpayers, and the community as a whole."

Mr. Andy Freeman, President and CEO of Preferred, told the Board during his presentation that "We want a partnership that is built on trust and confidence that this Hospital continues to make progress, and continues to serve the people of Kimble County."