

# CHOOSING THE BEST FUTURE FOR HAMBLEN COUNTY'S HOSPITALS

## A Call for TRANSPARENCY

From the desk of Priscilla Mills  
CEO, Lakeway Regional Hospital



Significant change is coming to Morristown-Hamblen Healthcare System. The question is - *what kind of change will it be?*

**We believe** our community has an exceptional, one-of-a-kind opportunity to improve medical care for our community. Morristown-Hamblen Healthcare System and Lakeway Regional Hospital could combine resources to create a strong regional healthcare system right here in Morristown. A proposal from Community Health Systems Professional Services Corporation (CHS) sent to MHHS last November offers to make significant financial investments in MHHS and in our community. Unfortunately, the board of directors was not willing to meet with CHS to discuss the offer before entering into exclusive talks to sell MHHS to Knoxville's Covenant Health.

**We believe** the CHS offer is worthy of serious consideration before a final decision about the future of MHHS is made. A decision this important – one that will dramatically impact our community, hundreds of jobs and the future of our care – deserves transparency and a robust public conversation so everyone can know the best possible future for our community's healthcare has been chosen.

#### The CHS plan is compelling.

- CHS would pay **\$50 million** for the assets of MHHS.
- MHHS would keep all of its cash and investments, which are estimated to be worth another **\$30 million**.
- With proceeds from the sale, MHHS would establish an independent Community Foundation, worth millions of dollars, to fund programs that would improve the quality of life in Morristown and Hamblen County.
- CHS would invest at least **\$60 million** in capital improvements at MHHS over the first seven years to grow clinical programs and services, fund building improvements, add new medical equipment and technologies, and recruit more physicians to our community.
- A partnership between MHHS and LRH would result in additional local tax revenues estimated at **\$800,000 to \$1 million** annually.
- MHHS would continue to operate with a local board of trustees.
- MHHS and LRH medical staff would be actively engaged in determining future healthcare strategies for both hospitals.
- All MHHS employees would be hired in the same position and at the same rate of pay.

**We believe** the economic, community and clinical benefits of the CHS proposal are striking. And, as CEO of Lakeway Regional Hospital, I know first-hand the benefits of an affiliation with CHS. As our partner for nearly two decades, CHS has helped us invest **tens of millions of dollars** to improve our facilities, recruit physicians to our community, and improve the quality of healthcare for you and your family. CHS has experience and expertise in helping communities like ours accomplish similar goals, and a clear vision for how two hospitals can work together to create a premier healthcare system – in Morristown.

But we, like you, do not know how the benefits of the CHS plan compare to those offered to MHHS by Covenant Health.

**We believe** our community deserves an objective, detailed comparison of both offers – and a conversation about the benefits of each. I hope you will join me and others in asking the MHHS board to fairly consider the CHS proposal and openly discuss the CHS and Covenant proposals before deciding the future of our community's healthcare.

At Lakeway Regional Hospital, we are very interested in partnering with

**Morristown-Hamblen Healthcare System** to provide quality care for our community.

We think that idea deserves some discussion. And, our community deserves to know that the best decisions are being made for the future of Morristown-Hamblen Healthcare System and for every local resident. After all, this decision will affect all of us for decades to come.



Learn more about the CHS offer and what you can do by visiting our Web site at  
[www.lakewayregionalhospital.com/BestChoice](http://www.lakewayregionalhospital.com/BestChoice)