



**Statement from Davis Richards
CEO for Madison County Medical Center
August 5, 2010**

Today's decision reaffirms our efforts to build Madison County families the new, full-service hospital they need and deserve.

We applaud the hearing officer's recommendation that the State Health Officer disapprove St. Dominic's request to build a second and unnecessary hospital in Madison County, and her decision to support the Mississippi State Health Plan.

In her recommendation today, Cassandra B. Walter said: "Approval of a project of this magnitude under the circumstances that exist is simply not good health planning and is not good policy for the Department."

This recommendation supports the analysis of the State Department of Health staff, who also concluded the proposed second hospital should be disapproved. We realize this recommendation must now move forward to the State Health Officer for a final determination in the matter.

We are deeply appreciative of the on-going, broad scale support for Madison River Oaks from Madison County patients, community leaders, elected officials, physicians and healthcare professionals. It is our honor to serve the people of Madison County, and we remain fully committed to meeting the healthcare needs – and surpassing the expectations – of Madison County families at Madison River Oaks.

Importantly, construction continues on the new Madison River Oaks hospital north of the City of Madison off I-55. The new 67-bed, 113,000-square-foot, \$42 million facility is scheduled to open next year. In fact, plans are underway now for a community-wide topping off ceremony in September to celebrate the construction's progress.

The latest information about Madison River Oaks is available at www.careformadison.com.

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