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**Rockdale Hospital Authority Enters Into
Exclusive Negotiations with LifePoint Hospitals, Inc.**

The Board of Trustees of the Hospital Authority of Rockdale County (RHA) and the Rockdale Medical Center Inc. (RMC) Board of Directors voted this evening to negotiate exclusively with LifePoint Hospitals, Inc. for the purchase of Rockdale Medical Center.

Authority Chairman, Ethel Boyle said, "As we continue our discussions, LifePoint will also continue their due diligence of the hospital."

"We are pleased to have the opportunity to continue negotiations with an organization which shares our same value of providing high quality medical care for our patients," added Richard Simons, Chairman of the RMC Board.

LifePoint Hospitals, Inc. is headquartered in Brentwood, Tennessee. They own 48 general acute care hospitals in 17 states.

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