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### **Rockdale Hospital Authority Explores New Options**

Rockdale Hospital Authority (RHA) and Rockdale Medical Center (RMC) received notice today that Signature Hospital Corporation has terminated further negotiations for the purchase of Rockdale Medical Center. Signature said its decision was based on the continued tightening credit markets and its inability to secure financing for the transaction on terms which would assure the future success of the hospital.

Authority Chairman, Ethel Boyle, expressed disappointment at Signature's decision, but said the RHA and RMC Boards had begun considering other alternatives when the credit markets became a problem earlier in the year. "Our Plan B is well under way with the evaluation of other options. The Signature deposit of \$1 million will be retained by the Rockdale Hospital Authority," added Boyle.

While we were moving forward with Signature, we were also making plans for the possibility that the Signature transaction would not occur. Both boards will be continuing and accelerating those plans in the coming weeks. In the meantime, Rockdale Medical Center will continue to go forward with our quality medical care for the citizens of Rockdale County and we are happy to have the valuable experience and leadership of Michael Potter on board as CEO to lead that effort.

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