

Contact:

**Ethel Boyle
Hospital Authority of Rockdale County
770-918-3911**

**HOSPITAL AUTHORITY OF ROCKDALE COUNTY SELLS ROCKDALE MEDICAL
CENTER TO LIFEPOINT HOSPITALS**

Rockdale County, Georgia (February 2, 2009) – The Hospital Authority of Rockdale County (HARC) announced today that it has completed the sale of Rockdale Medical Center (RMC) to LifePoint Hospitals, Inc., effective February 1, 2009, for a purchase price of \$80 million plus net working capital. The sale culminates a two year process in which the Boards of HARC and RMC sought a capital partner for the hospital after a careful examination of the ability of the hospital to continue as a stand alone facility. The Boards concluded that seeking a capital partner was the best way to insure continued high quality healthcare services for the citizens of the County.

The purchase price will enable HARC to pay all the outstanding indebtedness of RMC and still leave approximately \$40 million in the Authority to be used for charitable healthcare purposes in the community. The principal from the purchase will be restricted until the seven year Right of First Refusal expires to protect the ability of HARC to repurchase the hospital in the unlikely event of a sale. Interest earned on the principal will be used to help support healthcare programs in the county once HARC completes a year long planning process to identify and target the unmet healthcare needs of the county.

“We are very pleased to have a company with the resources and capabilities of LifePoint Hospitals assume responsibility for the hospital and continue the tradition of providing high quality healthcare to our community. LifePoint has outstanding management with great experience and has shown its dedication to providing high quality healthcare services in the other 46 communities it serves” said Ethel Boyle, Chairman of HARC.

“The acquisition of Rockdale Medical Center is consistent with LifePoint’s mission of entering into partnership with hospitals that share its dedication to the well-being and success of the community,” said William F. Carpenter III, President and Chief Executive Officer of LifePoint Hospitals. “The physicians and staff at RMC are passionately committed to the health of the citizens of Rockdale County. We are pleased to have Rockdale Medical Center in the LifePoint family and we look forward to working together to find new ways to enhance the delivery of quality health care in the community.”

In addition to the purchase price, LifePoint has agreed to abide by additional Public Interest Covenants contained in the Asset Purchase Agreement. Among these covenants are the commitment to maintain healthcare services in the community, to continue to provide for indigent and charity care, to provide a seven year right of first refusal to HARC in the event that the hospital is sold by LifePoint, and to invest \$30 million in new capital in RMC over the next six years. In order to provide community input into the operation of the hospital, LifePoint will appoint a local governing board of community leaders, physicians and LifePoint representatives,

including two members to be appointed by HARC. Finally, HARC will be responsible for monitoring LifePoint's compliance with the Public Interest Covenants.

"With financial support from LifePoint, along with the system-wide operational resources that will now be available to us, we are confident that RMC can serve this community for many years to come and with the highest quality care possible," said Richard Simons, Chair of the Board of Directors of Rockdale Medical Center.

Houlihan Lokey served as Financial Advisor to the Authority in this transaction.

About Rockdale Medical Center

Rockdale Medical Center is a 138-bed licensed hospital serving Conyers, Georgia, and surrounding communities. Located about 25 miles east of Atlanta, Rockdale Medical Center is accredited by the Joint Commission as well as The American College of Surgeons on Cancer. For more information, please visit www.rockdalemedicalcenter.org.

About LifePoint Hospitals

LifePoint Hospitals, Inc. is a leading hospital company focused on providing healthcare services in non-urban communities in 17 states, including Georgia. Of the Company's 47 hospitals, 44 are in communities where LifePoint Hospitals is the sole community hospital provider. LifePoint Hospitals' non-urban operating strategy offers continued operational improvement by focusing on five guiding principles that outline the Company's vision: delivering compassionate, high quality patient care; supporting physicians; creating an outstanding environment for employees; providing unmatched community value; and ensuring fiscal responsibility. Headquartered in Brentwood, Tennessee, LifePoint Hospitals is affiliated with approximately 21,000 employees. More information about LifePoint Hospitals can be found on its website, www.lifepointhospitals.com.

-END-