FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Good Shepherd Health System Announces Closure of Hospital in Linden and Two Health Clinics in Cass County

(LINDEN, TX – February 24, 2014) — Good Shepherd Health System has announced that it has notified the Linden Municipal Hospital Authority of its intent to close Good Shepherd Medical Center - Linden (404 North Kaufman) effective April 30, 2014. The Good Shepherd Medical Associates Family Health Centers, formerly Glenn-Garrett Clinics, in Linden (402 North Kaufman) and Hughes Springs (201 East 2nd Street) will also close at that time.

The Good Shepherd Health System has owned and operated Good Shepherd - Linden, a 25-bed Critical Access Hospital serving a primarily rural population, since 2005. Capital investments have exceeded $6 million, and Good Shepherd has made significant investments in time, people and resources to maintain a much-improved hospital and emergency room over the past nine years.

“Even with community support and investment in quality personnel and equipment, patient activity was not at a sustainable level, and GSHS has incurred operating losses totaling over $12 million since the acquisition of the Linden hospital. The average daily patient census has been less than five, and the average emergency room visits have been less than one patient per hour. This was the basis of our decision,” said Steve Altmiller, President and CEO of Good Shepherd Health System. Other influencing factors include Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement cuts to hospitals, potential cuts to Critical Access Hospitals and a two-percent cut in Medicare reimbursements due to the federal sequester.

The hospital and clinic closures will result in the loss of approximately 100 jobs. “This closure in no way detracts from what our staff members at the hospital and health clinics have accomplished. We are truly grateful to them and thank them for their dedication to quality patient care,” Atmiller added.

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Patient safety and care remain Good Shepherd’s foremost concern during the transition period, and emergency room care will continue in Linden through closure. Following closure, emergency care will be provided by Good Shepherd Medical Center – Marshall, Good Shepherd Medical Center in Longview and Christus St. Michael Hospital - Atlanta, along with other neighboring healthcare facilities throughout East Texas.

“This decision, while a very difficult one, is one that is occurring across the country and has been made so that Good Shepherd Health System remains a high quality, community-based and financially stable healthcare organization recognized for its excellence. Good Shepherd Medical Center in Longview, Good Shepherd Medical Center in Marshall and Good Shepherd Medical Associates will continue to provide patient-centered, state-of-the-art healthcare throughout East Texas today and long into the future,” said Altmiller.

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