

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Hospital District Board of Commissioners authorizes affiliation discussions**

*Independent consultant to explore affiliation options and is now directed to begin formal negotiations with regional healthcare organizations.*

Edmonds, WA – August 25, 2009 – The Board of Commissioners of Public Hospital District #2, the governing body overseeing Stevens Hospital, has directed Howard Thomas, an independent consultant retained by the Board last April, to enter formal discussions regarding a formal affiliation with a regional healthcare system. Acting favorably on a motion by Commissioner Kimberly Cole, the Board has requested Mr. Thomas to conduct formal talks with several regional healthcare systems. As these negotiations unfold, the consultant will bring back proposals from these potential affiliation organizations. The Consultant has been instructed to present specific recommendations that will further define both the affiliation process and the specific proposed terms of the potential affiliation. This work is to begin immediately. This work has been part of the ongoing strategic planning work at Stevens and we expect that this affiliation topic will be a significant focus area for the Board of Commissioners for the next few months. This work is expected to ultimately result in the development of a formal affiliation agreement with one or more of the organizations that have signaled that they are interested in a long term affiliation with Stevens.

Jack Kirkman, Vice President, for Stevens, indicated that “the goals of the proposed affiliation are to (1) enhance and expand Steven’s stated mission and vision by increasing and improving access to the healthcare services available to residents of South Snohomish and Northwest King Counties; (2) to enhance the availability of services and advanced medical procedures to the citizens in and around the Stevens’ service area and to integrate this care with those services that are available at Stevens; (3) to improve long term financial viability of Stevens; (4) improve the community’s perception of the Hospital and complete the process of developing Stevens as a “must have” healthcare provider; and, (5) retain and recruit high quality medical staff by providing significant professional opportunities.”

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### **About Stevens Hospital**

Since 1964, Stevens Hospital has offered a full range of hospital services including cardiac and cancer care, obstetrics, emergency services and state-of-the-art diagnostic imaging. Stevens Hospital, with 156 operating beds and a professional staff of 1,200-plus people, serves patients from the areas of North Seattle, Edmonds, Lynnwood, Mill Creek and Bothell. More than 450 physicians have admitting privileges at Stevens. The Board of Commissioners for Public Hospital District #2 of Snohomish County, Washington, is responsible for oversight of the hospital and its facilities.