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Independent Auditors' Report on Compliance and on Internal Control over Financial Reporting Based on an Audit of Financial Statements  Performed in Accordance with Government Auditing Standards

Under provisions of state law, this report is a public document. A copy of the report has been submitted to the entity and other appropriate public officials. The report is available for public inspection at the Baton Rouge office of the Legislative Auditor and, where appropriate, at the office of the parish clerk of court.

Release Date JUL 2 6 2000

Bobby G. Lester, CPA John S. Wells, CPA Robert G. Miller, CPA Paul A. Delaney, CPA

Paul G. Mathews, CPA Melanie I. Sarver, CPA

# LESTER, MILLER & WELLS

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# INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Board of Directors
Ville Platte Medical Center, Inc.
Evangeline Parish
Ville Platte, Louisiana

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of the Ville Platte Medical Center, Inc., a component unit of Hospital Service District No. 1 of Evangeline Parish, as of December 31, 1999, and the related statement of activities and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Hospital's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>, issued by the comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Ville Platte Medical Center, Inc. as of December 31, 1999, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In accordance with <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>, we have also issued a report dated May 11, 2000 on our consideration of the Hospital's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants.

Our audit was performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying financial information listed as "Supplemental Information" in the table of contents is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements of the Ville Platte Medical Center, Inc. Such information, has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

As discussed in Note 11 to the financial statements, certain errors resulting in overstatement of net assets were discovered by management during the current year. Accordingly, net assets has been restated to correct the errors.

Certified Public Accountants

Lester, Miller & Wells

May 11, 2000

# VILLE PLATTE MEDICAL CENTER, INC. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION DECEMBER 31, 1999

	<u>1999</u>
ASSETS	
Current assets: Cash and cash equivalents Short-term investments Accounts receivable, net (Note 4) Inventories Prepaid expenses	\$ 711,417 800,000 3,625,791 616,346 52,365
Total current assets	_5,805,919
Property, plant and equipment, net (Note 5) Organization cost, net	8,590,039 19,242
Total assets	\$ <u>14.415.200</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Current liabilities: Accounts payable Accrued expenses Estimated third-party payor settlements Current maturities of long-term debt	\$ 389,498 802,233 163,693 1,158,643
Total current liabilities	_ 2,514,067
Long-term debt, less current maturities (Note 6)	_8,205,633
Total liabilities	10,719,700
Net assets: Unrestricted	_3,695,500
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ <u>14.415.200</u>

# VILLE PLATTE MEDICAL CENTER, INC. STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999

	<u>1999</u>
Unrestricted revenues, gains and other support: Net patient service revenue Donations Grant income Other operating revenue	\$20,555,071 633,448 5,096 378,757
Total unrestricted revenues, gains and other support	21,572,372
Expenses: Salaries Benefits and payroll taxes Contract services Supplies and drugs Other expenses Insurance Interest Depreciation and amortization Provision for bad debts	7,667,571 1,102,511 2,752,172 3,637,908 1,974,910 341,637 1,006,257 917,387 923,231
Total expenses	20,323,584
Operating income	_1,248,788
Non-operating income: Interest income	99,526
Increase in unrestricted net assets	1,348,314
Net assets, beginning of year	2,904,228
Prior period adjustment (Note 11)	(557,042)
Net assets, end of year	\$ <u>3.695.500</u>

# VILLE PLATTE MEDICAL CENTER, INC. STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999

	1999
Cash flows from operating activities:	
Increase in unrestricted net assets	\$ 1,348,314
Adjustments to reconcile increase in net assets to net cash used by operating activities: Depreciation and amortization	047.007
Provision for bad debts Donated property	917,387 923,231 (633,448)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities: (Increase)decrease in net accounts receivable (Increase)decrease in inventories (Increase)decrease in prepaid expenses Increase(decrease) in accounts payable Increase(decrease) in accrued expenses Increase(decrease) in third party payor settlements	(2,643,332) (22,171) 161,095 12,326 77,550 (324,549)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(183,597)
Cash flows from investing activities: Purchase of investments Purchase of equipment	(800,000) _(1,522,124)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	_(2,322,124)
Cash flows from financing activities: Proceeds from long-term borrowing Principal payments on long-term borrowing Principal payments on capital lease obligations	963,000 (598,888) (202,615)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	<u>161,497</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	(2,344,224)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	3,055,641
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ <u>711.417</u>
Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information: Cash paid during the year for interest	\$ <u>1.006.257</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

#### NOTE 1 - ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS

# Organization

Ville Platte Medical Center, Inc. (the Hospital) was incorporated on June 1, 1995 as a not-for-profit corporation. On August 30, 1996, the Hospital entered into a lease agreement with the Hospital Service District No. 1 of Evangeline Parish to lease the real property together with the buildings, and improvements erected thereon and equipment (the hospital facility) for a period of twenty years. Due to the nature and significance of its relationship with the Hospital Service District No. 1 of Evangeline Parish, Ville Platte Medical Center, Inc. is considered to be a component unit of the Hospital Service District No. 1 of Evangeline Parish. On September 1, 1996, the Hospital began operations to provide or facilitate an adequate level of quality, affordable acute inpatient services and healthcare to all citizens of the City of Ville Platte and surrounding areas.

#### Nature of Business

The Hospital provides outpatient, skilled nursing (through "swing-beds"), acute inpatient and geriatric psychiatric inpatient hospital services.

#### NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### Method of Accounting

The Hospital uses the accrual method of accounting. Net patient service revenue is reported at the estimated net realizable amounts from patients, third party payors and others for services rendered, including estimated retroactive adjustments under third party reimbursement agreements with third party payors. Retroactive adjustments are accrued on an estimated basis in the period the related settlements are determined. Expenditures are recorded when incurred. Hospital accounting and reporting procedures also conform to the requirements of the AICPA <u>Audits of Providers of Health Care Services</u>, published by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

#### Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash represents coin, currency, bank demand deposits and other negotiable instruments that are readily acceptable in lieu of currency. Cash equivalents are time deposits and certificates of deposit purchased with a maturity of three months or less. Cash and cash equivalents do not include amounts classified as investments or assets whose use is limited.

#### Inventory

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost determined by the first-in, first-out method, or market basis.

# NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

#### Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment is recorded at cost for purchased assets or, if received as a donation, at fair market value on the date of donation. The Hospital uses the straight-line method of calculating depreciation for all assets. The useful lives of property, plant and equipment for the purpose of computing depreciation are:

Land improvements	8 to 20 years
Buildings and improvements	10 to 40 years
Furniture and equipment	3 to 20 years

Maintenance and repairs are charged to operations when incurred. Betterments and major renewals are capitalized.

#### Credit Risk

The Hospital grants credit to patients, substantially all of whom are local residents. As discussed in Note 4, substantial portions are insured by third-party payor agreements. The Hospital's estimate of collectibility is based on an analysis of aged accounts receivable to establish an allowance for uncollectible accounts.

#### Significant Concentration of Economic Dependence

The Hospital has an economic dependence on a small number of staff physicians. These physicians admit over 90% of the Hospital's patients.

#### Third Party Cost-Based Revenues

Contractual agreements with governmental agencies provide for reimbursement based on a fixed price per patient stay based upon the patient's primary diagnosis for Medicare inpatient acute services. Medicare inpatient psychiatric services are reimbursed based upon the reasonable cost of services to patients (subject to certain limits). Medicare and Medicaid outpatient services are reimbursed based upon the lesser of reasonable cost (subject to certain limits) or charges to patients. Medicaid inpatient acute services are reimbursed based upon a fixed price per stay. These reimbursements are subject to audit and retroactive adjustments by each payor.

#### Income Taxes

The Hospital is a not-for-profit corporation and has been recognized as tax-exempt pursuant to Sec. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

#### NOTE 3 - DEPOSITS

The total cash held by the Hospital at December 31, 1999, includes \$1,311,002 in deposits at a financial institution that are not covered by insurance provided by the federal government. It is the opinion of management that the solvency of the referenced financial institution is not of particular concern at this time.

#### NOTE 4 - ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

A summary of accounts receivable is presented below:

	<u>1999</u>
Net patient accounts receivable Other accounts receivable	\$ 4,912,449 342
Estimated uncollectibles	4,912,791 (1,287,000)
Total	\$ <u>3.625.791</u>

The Hospital receives a substantial portion of its revenues from the Medicare and Medicaid programs at discounted rates. The following is a summary of Medicare and Medicaid patient revenues.

	1999
Medicare and Medicaid gross patient charges Contractual adjustments	\$ 25,882,839 (13,042,945)
Net patient service revenue	\$ <u>12,839,894</u>
Percent of total gross patient revenues	_69%
Percent of total net patient revenues	<u>62%</u>

#### NOTE 5 - PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

The following is a summary of property, plant and equipment and related accumulated depreciation:

		ASSET	COST	
	December 31, 1998	Additions	Deductions	December 31, 1999
Land	\$ 94,861	\$ 647,186	\$ -0-	\$ 742,047
Land improvements	10,554	-0-	-0-	10,554
Buildings and improvements  Property, plant and equipment	599,830	519,724	-0-	1,119,554
under capital lease obligations	5,934,228	-0-	-0-	5,934,228
Major moveable equipment	1,127,659	1,867,714	-0-	2,995,373
Construction in progress	1,025,559	0-	856,240	169,319
Total	\$ <u>8.792.691</u>	\$ <u>3.034.624</u>	\$ <u>856,240</u>	\$ <u>10.971.075</u>
	A	CCUMULATED	DEPRECIATION	
	December 31,			December 31,
	1998	_Additions_	_Deductions	1999
Land improvements	\$ 1,752	\$ 1,039	\$ -0-	\$ 2,791
Buildings and improvements	12,784	34,083	-0-	46,867
Leased equipment	1,212,523	535,732	-0-	1,748,255
Major moveable equipment	248,119	335,004		583,123
Total	\$ <u>1.475.178</u>	\$ <u>905.858</u>	\$ <u>-0-</u>	\$ <u>2.381.036</u>

#### NOTE 6 - LONG-TERM DEBT

The following is a summary of the note and capital lease obligations:

1999

A note payable to First National Bank of Commerce for the purchase of accounts receivable, inventory, equipment and working capital was made on August 29, 1996, with a maturity date October 1, 2006. The note calls for 120 monthly payments of \$49,683, which includes principal and interest at 8.25% per annum. The note is secured by assignment of lease between Ville Platte Medical Center, Inc. and the Hospital Service District No. 1 of Evangeline Parish pertaining only to the occupancy rights of the Hospital and first lien on inventory and equipment.

\$ 2,154,702

#### NOTE 6 - LONG-TERM DEBT (Continued)

Capitalized lease payable to Hospital Service District No. 1 of Evangeline Parish for land, buildings and improvements and equipment totaling \$5,440,508, payable in monthly installments of \$63,000 to \$69,000 including interest at 4.5% to 5.6% through January, 2015.

\$ 5,154,752

Capitalized lease payable to General Electric company for a Nuclear Med Camera, payable in 84 monthly installments of \$2,651, including interest at 10.5% through July, 2002.

91,417

Capitalized lease payable to Hill Rom for hospital beds and cabinets payable in monthly installments of \$22,981, including interest at 8.5% through July 1, 2002.

257,652

A note payable to Evangeline Bank & Trust for the purchase of computer equipment was made on September 11, 1998, with a maturity date of September 20, 2003. The note calls for 60 monthly payments of \$19,500, which includes principal and interest at 6.99% per annum. The note is secured by the computer equipment with a book value of \$1,550,377 as of December 31, 1999.

768,486

A note payable to Hancock Bank of Louisiana for the purchase of the Wellness Center and equipment was made on May 4, 1999, with a maturity date of May 4, 2019. The note calls for 239 monthly payments of \$3,262, and a final payment of \$16,520 which includes principal and interest at 7.23% per annum. The note is secured by the building and equipment with a book value of \$394,728 as of December 31, 1999.

407,823

A note payable to Evangeline Bank & Trust for the purchase of a computer system was made on July 8, 1999, with a maturity date July 8, 2004. The note calls for 60 monthly payments of \$5,940, which includes principal and interest at 6.99% per annum. The note is secured by the computer equipment with a book value of \$1,550,377 as of December 31, 1999.

\$ 279,444

# NOTE 6 - LONG-TERM DEBT (Continued)

capital lease obligations

A note payable to Evangeline Bank & Trust for cash flow as made on October 6, 1999, with a maturity date of June 28, 2000. The note calls for 1 payment of \$272,457, which includes principal and interest at 7.27% per annum. The note is secured by a certificate of deposit.

Total note and capital lease obligations

9,364,276

Less current maturities of long-term debt and of

Long-term debt \$\_8.205.633

1,158,643

The following is a schedule of principal repayments on long-term debt and payments on capital lease obligations:

December 31,	Long- De		Capital <u>Oblig</u> a	
2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 and thereafter	\$ \$	682,571 738,290 798,256 804,278 234,711 352,351 3,610,457		931,399 929,482 970,366 829,908 787,516 3,207,965 2,656,636
Less amount representing interest under capital lease obligations			{	6,902,817
Total			\$_:	5.753.819

The Hospital leases equipment under capital lease agreements expiring in various years. The assets and liabilities under capital leases are recorded at the fair value of the asset. The assets are depreciated over their estimated useful lives. Depreciation of assets under capital leases is included in depreciation expense.

# NOTE 6 - LONG-TERM DEBT (Continued)

The following is a summary of property held under capital leases:

	<u>1999</u>
Hill Rom Hospital Beds GE Nuclear Med Camera Property, plant and equipment leased from	\$ 343,294 150,426
Evangeline Parish Hospital Service District	_ <u>5,440,508</u> 5,934,228
Less: accumulated depreciation	(1,748,255)
Total	\$ <u>4.185.973</u>

#### NOTE 7 - COMPENSATED ABSENCES

Employees of the Hospital are entitled to paid days off and sick days depending on length of service. The Hospital accrued \$352,586 at December 31, 1999. It is impracticable to estimate the amount of compensation for future unvested sick pay and, accordingly, no liability has been recorded in the accompanying financial statements. The Hospital's policy is to recognize the cost of unvested sick pay when actually paid to employees.

#### NOTE 8 - EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLAN

The Hospital sponsors a 403(b) Profit Sharing Plan under Section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code. All employees who have completed one year of service are eligible to participate in the plan. The Hospital elected to match twenty-five cents for each dollar of employee deferral, with the Hospital's contribution not to exceed 6% of an employee's salary, subject to limitations imposed by the Internal Revenue Service. The Hospital's contribution to the plan totaled \$54,242 for the year ended December 31, 1999.

#### NOTE 9 - PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY RISK

The Hospital participates in the Louisiana Patient's Compensation Fund ("PCF") established by the State of Louisiana to provide medical professional liability coverage to healthcare providers. The fund provides for \$400,000 in coverage per occurrence above the first \$100,000 per occurrence for which the Hospital is at risk. The fund places no limitation on the number of occurrences covered. In connection with the establishment of the PCF, the State of Louisiana enacted legislation limiting the amount of healthcare provider settlement for professional liability to \$100,000 per occurrence and limited the PCF's exposure to \$400,000 per occurrence. Additional coverage for professional medical malpractice liability was purchased from a commercial insurance company.

#### **NOTE 10 - CONTINGENCIES**

The Hospital evaluates contingencies based upon the best available evidence. The Hospital believes that no allowance for loss contingencies is considered necessary. To the extent that resolution of contingencies results in amounts which vary from the Hospital's estimates, future earnings will be charged or credited.

The principal contingencies are described below:

Governmental Third Party Reimbursement Programs (Note 2 and 4) - The Hospital is contingently liable for retroactive adjustments made by the Medicare and Medicaid programs as the result of their examinations as well as retroactive changes in interpretations applying statutes, regulations and general instructions of those programs. The amount of such adjustments cannot be determined.

Further, in order to continue receiving reimbursement from the Medicare programs, the Hospital entered into an agreement with a government agent allowing the agent access to the Hospital's Medicare patient medical records for purposes of making medical necessity and appropriate level of care determination. The agent has the ability to deny reimbursement for Medicare patient claims which have already been paid to the Hospital.

Professional Liability Risk (Note 9) - The Hospital is contingently liable for losses from professional liability not underwritten by the Louisiana Patient's Compensation Fund or the Hospital's insurance carrier.

The Hospital participates in a self-insured health plan administered by Benesys, Inc. Should the fund's assets not be adequate to cover claims made against it, the Hospital may be assessed its pro rata share of the resulting deficit. The Hospital has acquired stop-loss insurance to cover individual claims exceeding \$20,000 and to cover claims in the aggregate exceeding \$733,280.

#### NOTE 11 - PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT

Retained earnings at the beginning of 1999 have been restated to correct errors in recording allowances for accounts receivable, amounts due to the Medicare program and inventory.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

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# VILLE PLATTE MEDICAL CENTER, INC. SCHEDULE OF PATIENT SERVICE REVENUE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999

Routine services:	1999
Adult and pediatric Swing bed Intensive care unit Psychiatric Nursery	\$ 2,393,068 335,064 878,760 1,222,520 97,080
Total routine services	4,926,492
Other professional services: Operating room	
Inpatient Outpatient	1,447,533
Total	_1,264,790
	_2,7.12,323
Delivery Inpatient Outpatient	211,326 63,418
Total	274,744
Anesthesia Inpatient Outpatient	134,881 <u>945,396</u>
Total	1,080,277
Radiology Inpatient Outpatient	2,512,143 4,476,435
Total	_6,988,578
Laboratory	
Inpatient Outpatient	2,494,889 1,614,233
Total	_4,109,122
Respiratory therapy Inpatient	2,188,327
Outpatient	592,515
Total	\$_2,780,842

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# VILLE PLATTE MEDICAL CENTER, INC. SCHEDULE OF PATIENT SERVICE REVENUE (Continued) YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999

	<u>1999</u>
Physical therapy Inpatient Outpatient	\$ 650,739 <u>672,425</u>
Total	_1,323, <u>164</u>
Occupational therapy Inpatient Outpatient	89,002 207,700
Total	296,702
Speech therapy Inpatient Outpatient	45,343 60,559
Total	105,902
Medical supplies Inpatient Outpatient	2,185,624 
Total	3,215,625
Pharmacy Inpatient Outpatient	6,545,701 1,500,620
Total	_8,046,321
Ambulatory surgery Inpatient Outpatient	1,239 66,171
Total	67.410
Oncology Inpatient Outpatient	19,148 82,771
Total	101.919
Emergency room Inpatient Outpatient	156,812 651,091
Total	\$807,903

# VILLE PLATTE MEDICAL CENTER, INC. SCHEDULE OF PATIENT SERVICE REVENUE (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999

	1999	
Observation room Inpatient Outpatient	\$ 55,823 220,840	
Total	276,663	
Home health visits	164,089	
Total other professional services Inpatient Outpatient Home health	18,738,530 13,448,965 164,089	
Total other professional services	32,351,584	
Gross patient service charges	37,278,076	
Deductions from revenue: Contractual adjustments Discounts	16,646,927 76,078	
Total deductions from revenue	16,723,005	
Net patient service revenue	\$ <u>20.555.071</u>	

# VILLE PLATTE MEDICAL CENTER, INC. SCHEDULE OF OTHER OPERATING REVENUE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999

	<u>19</u>	99
Cafeteria	\$	65,231
Rental		82,831
Wellness Plus dues	•	190,123
Community Wellness		6,227
Commissions		7,251
Purchased discounts		2,298
Miscellaneous		24,796
Total other operating revenue	\$ <u>3</u>	<u>378.757</u>

# VILLE PLATTE MEDICAL CENTER, INC. SCHEDULE OF OPERATING EXPENSES - SALARIES AND BENEFITS YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999

	<u>1999</u>
Administrative Plant operations Housekeeping Dietary Nursing administration Medical records Nursing services Intensive care unit PACES Nursery Surgery Delivery Anesthesiology Radiology Laboratory Respiratory therapy EKG and EEG Purchasing Pharmacy Ambulatory surgery Oncology Emergency room Home health Wellness center	\$ 846,546 110,064 168,616 210,272 367,880 384,445 1,404,743 561,886 341,538 106,873 368,263 275,626 218,787 439,762 367,678 255,890 86,237 73,610 234,397 72,283 57,963 469,338 89,098 155,776
Total salaries	_ <u>7,667,571</u>
Payroll taxes Health insurance Pension Other  Total benefits  Total salaries and benefits	669,897 329,850 54,242 48,522 1,102,511 \$_8,770,082
Health insurance Pension Other	54, 48, _1,102,

# VILLE PLATTE MEDICAL CENTER, INC. SCHEDULE OF OPERATING EXPENSES - OTHER EXPENSES YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999

	1	999
Legal and accounting	\$	55,261
Repairs and maintenance		421,692
Utilities		393,566
Travel		51,694
Rentals		289,509
Education		31,105
Advertising		32,083
Dues and subscriptions		24,335
Recruitment		291,719
Taxes		274,558
Freight and postage		56,729
Collection fees		24,401
Miscellaneous		28,258
Total other expenses	\$ <u>_1</u> .	974.910

# VILLE PLATTE MEDICAL CENTER, INC. SCHEDULE OF PER DIEM AND OTHER COMPENSATION PAID TO BOARD MEMBERS YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999

	TERM			
Board Members:	BEGAN	ENDING	1999	
Mr. Charles Buller	04/01/96	04/01/02	NONE	
Mr. Leonard Fontenot	04/01/96	04/01/03	NONE	
Ms. Diane Reed	04/01/96	04/01/03	NONE	
Dr. Greg Ardoin	04/01/96	04/01/01	NONE	
Mr. Bob Buroker	04/01/96	04/01/02	NONE	
Dr. Thomas Fontenot	04/01/96	04/01/03	NONE	
Dr. Charles P. LaHaye	04/01/96	01/01/00	NONE	
Dr. Armand Coreil	04/01/96	04/01/01	NONE	
Mr. Clement Lafleur	04/01/96	04/01/00	NONE	
Mr. Matthews Thomas	04/01/96	04/01/01	NONE	

Bobby G. Lester, CPA John S. Wells, CPA Robert G. Miller, CPA Paul A. Delaney, CPA

Paul G. Mathews, CPA Melanie I. Sarver, CPA

### LESTER, MILLER & WELLS

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Report on Compliance and on Internal Control over Financial Reporting Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>

The Board of Directors
Ville Platte Medical Center, Inc.
Ville Platte, Louisiana

We have audited the component unit financial statements of Ville Platte Medical Center, Inc. as of and for the year ended December 31, 1999 and have issued our report thereon dated May 11, 2000. We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

# Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Hospital's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>.

#### Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Hospital's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.

Board of Directors Ville Platte Medical Center, Inc. Page Two

This report is intended solely for the information of the Board of Directors and management and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than those specified parties.

Certified Public Accountants

Lester, Miller \* Wells

May 11, 2000