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ST. JAMES PARISH HOSPITAL SERVICE DISTRICT
LUTCHER, LOUISIANA
MARCH 31, 1999

Under provisions of state law, this report is a public document. A copy of the report has been submitted to the audited, or reviewed, 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 OCT 2 0 1999

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A Professional Accounting Corporation

Independent Auditor's Report

Board of Commissioners St. James Parish Hospital Service District Lutcher, Louisiana

I have audited the balance sheet of

ST. JAMES PARISH HOSPITAL SERVICE DISTRICT LUTCHER, LOUISIANA

at March 31, 1999, and March 31, 1998, and the related statement of income, net assets, and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Hospital's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

I conducted my audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I 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 includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. I believe that my audit of the financial statements provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

In my opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of St. James Parish Hospital Service District as of March 31, 1999, and March 31, 1998, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Jany Aarson

September 16, 1999

ST. JAMES PARISH HOSPITAL SERVICE DISTRICT BALANCE SHEET MARCH 31, 1999, AND MARCH 31, 1998

A S S E T S

	MARCH 31, 1999	MARCH 31, 1998
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents Accounts receivable, patients	\$420,546 702,340	\$1,004,728 861,749
Contractual settlements receivable Taxes receivable	726,939 242,223	405,202
Inventories Prepaid expenses	85,999 <u>61,335</u>	97,372 117,157
Total current assets	2,239,382	2,723,709
ASSETS WHOSE USE IS LIMITED		
By agreements with third party payors		
for funded depreciation	2,051,140	1,570,084
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	2,570,852	2,833,947
<u>DEPOSITS</u>	650	345
<u>Total assets</u>	6,862,024	7,128,085
<u>LIABILITIES AND NET</u>	ASSETS	
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$177,455	\$330,803
Current maturities of long-term debt Accrued expenses	40,889 <u>302,169</u>	38,742 282,047
Total current liabilities	520,513	651,592
LONG-TERM DEBT	104,460	146,262
DEFERRED REVENUE	144,200	<u>178,000</u>
Total liabilities	769,173	975,854
NET ASSETS - UNRESTRICTED	6,092,851	6,152,231
Total liabilities and net assets	6,862,024	7,128,085 =======

Notes are an integral part of this statement.

ST. JAMES PARISH HOSPITAL SERVICE DISTRICT STATEMENT OF INCOME YEARS ENDED MARCH 31, 1999, AND MARCH 31, 1998

	YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1999	YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1998
NET PATIENT SERVICE REVENUE	\$5,933,450	\$5,773,942
OTHER OPERATING REVENUES - PATIENT SERVICES	24,570	<u>43,955</u>
Total patient service revenue	5,958,020	<u>5,817,897</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Payrolls Employee benefits Contract services and professional fees Supplies Rents, lease, and maintenance contracts Provision for bad debts Telephone and utilities Insurance Interest Other Depreciation	2,718,526 364,794 1,714,159 760,718 119,746 696,242 178,808 88,080 12,218 185,311 387,296	2,680,130 373,889 1,457,074 684,248 101,678 538,547 155,437 106,723 9,273 215,590 366,294
Total operating expenses	7,225,898	6,688,883
NET INCOME (LOSS) - PATIENT SERVICES	(1,267,878)	(870,986)
OTHER OPERATING REVENUE		
Taxes - Maintenance and revenue sharing	1,033,173	1,035,384
NET INCOME (LOSS) FROM OPERATIONS	(234,705)	164,398
NON OPERATING REVENUES		
Interest from Board designated funds Grants All other	151,257 4,680 19,388	125,300 33,250 (3,583)
NET INCOME (LOSS) FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS	(59,380)	319,365
DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS - NOTE #2 - OFFSITE PSYCHIATRIC UNITS		(343,704)
NET INCOME (LOSS)	(59,380) ====≈≈	(24,339)

Notes are an integral part of this statement.

ST. JAMES PARISH HOSPITAL SERVICE DISTRICT STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS YEARS ENDED MARCH 31, 1999, AND MARCH 31, 1998

	YEAR ENDED MARCH 31,1999	YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1998
Net Assets - Beginning of period	\$6,152,231	\$6,176,570
Net income (loss) - for period	(59,380)	(24,339)
Net Assets - End of period	6,092,851 ========	6,152,231

Notes are an integral part of this statement.

ST. JAMES PARISH HOSPITAL SERVICE DISTRICT STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS YEARS ENDED MARCH 31, 1999, AND MARCH 31, 1998

	YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1999	YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1998
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net income (loss) Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities Depreciation Amortization of deferred revenue Changes in operating assets and liabilities Decrease (increase) in accounts receivable, net Decrease (increase) in contractual settlements, net Decrease (increase) in taxes receivable Decrease (increase) in inventories Decrease (increase) in prepaid expenses Increase (decrease) in accounts payable Increase (decrease) in accounts payable Increase (decrease) in accrued expenses, net	\$(59,380) 387,296 (33,800) 159,409 (321,737) (4,722) 11,373 55,822 (153,348) 20,122 61,035	\$(24,339) 445,060 (12,168) (913,441) 11,749 (8,879) 9,376 105,257 (_60,673) (448,058)
Net cash provided by operating activities CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	<u>01,033</u>	(<u>440,030</u>)
Cash returned for security deposits Cash invested in assets whose use is limited Purchase of property and equipment, net	(305) (481,056) (<u>124,201</u>)	20,605 373,564 (<u>309,497</u>)
Net cash provided by investing activities	(<u>605,562</u>)	84,672
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Additional borrowings of long term debt Repayment of long-term debt	<u>(39,655</u>)	189,400 (20,711)
Net cash provided by financing activities	(<u>39,655</u>)	<u>168,689</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(584,182)	(194,697)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,004,728	1,199,425
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF YEAR	420,546	1,004,728

Notes are an integral part of this statement.

NOTE #1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

St. James Parish Hospital Service District, d/b/a St. James Parish Hospital is a not for profit acute care hospital. The Hospital was approved by the St. James Parish Police Jury and is a political subdivision organized under the State of Louisiana laws. The Hospital has a Board of Commissioners who are appointed by the Parish Council/Police Jury.

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 reimbursement agreements with third party payors. Retroactive adjustments are accrued on an estimated basis in the period the related services are rendered and adjusted in future periods as final settlements are determined.

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash on hand and in bank accounts, and also certificates of deposit, with maturity dates at acquisition that is less than 90 days, plus accrued interest.

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

Financial instruments included in assets whose use is limited are carried at cost adjusted for discounts and premiums which approximates fair value at the balance sheet date. Investment income is reported as nonoperating revenues.

Property, plant and equipment is stated at cost. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method at rates approximating the estimated useful lives of the property. Maintenance, repairs, replacements, and improvements of minor importance are expensed. Major replacements and improvements are capitalized.

The Hospital receives a 5.0 mills property tax which is levied January 1 each year, payable by December 31 of that year. The Hospital records the expected revenues to be received based on factors such as previous years collections to assessments and the estimated taxable assessed value for the current year. Adjustments are made upon final receipts.

The Hospital is a not-for-profit corporation as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is exempt from federal income taxes on related income pursuant to Section 501(a) of the Code.

Advertising and promotion costs are expensed as incurred.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses during the period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

NOTE #2: DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS

The Hospital Service District ceased operating its offsite psychiatric units in February 1998. The loss from this disposal incurred after March 31, 1998, was provided in the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 1998. The Hospital service District disposed of its North Louisiana psychiatric units and home office in 1996.

NOTE #3: PENSION PLAN

The Hospital is a member of the Parochial Employees' Retirement System of Louisiana - Plan B. All employees must participate in this plan. The Plan B fund is financed by employee contributions of 2% of members annual earnings in excess of \$1,200 and employer contributions as determined by the Public Retirement Systems' Actuarial Committee. The Actuarial committee has determined that the employer contribution rate for 1999 and 1998 to be 2.5% - (2.0% for 2000.) The actuarial cost method used for Plan B is the aggregate actuarial cost method with allocation based on earnings. The normal cost is interest adjusted for midyear payment. The ratio of assets to the pension benefit obligation in Plan B was 129% and 132% at December 31, 1999 and 1998 respectively. Total pension expense was \$54,377 for the year ended March 31, 1999, and \$62,676 for the year ended March 31, 1998. All amounts expensed have been funded to the plan.

NOTE #4: NET PATIENT SERVICE REVENUE

The Hospital has agreements with third-party payors that provide for payments to the Hospital at amounts different from established rates. A summary of the payment arrangements with major third party payors follows:

Medicare - Inpatient acute care services rendered to Medicare program beneficiaries are paid at prospectively determined rates per discharge. These rates vary according to a patient classification system that is based on clinical, diagnostic, and other factors. Inpatient nonacute services, certain outpatient services, and defined capital and medical education cost related to Medicare program beneficiaries are paid based on a cost reimbursement methodology. The Hospital is reimbursed for cost reimbursable items at a tentative rate with final settlement determined after submission of annual cost reports by the Hospital and audits thereof by the Medicare fiscal intermediary. The Hospital's Medicare cost reports have been audited by the Medicare fiscal intermediary through March 31, 1996. Desk reviews have been performed on reports issued through March 31, 1997 and 1996. The Hospital filed for a re-opening of its June 30, 1991, cost report.

Medicaid - Inpatient and outpatient services rendered to Medicaid program beneficiaries are reimbursed under a cost reimbursement methodology. The Hospital is reimbursed at a tentative rate with final settlement determined after submission of annual cost reports by the Hospital and audits thereof by the Medicaid fiscal intermediary. The Hospital's Medicaid cost reports have been audited through March 31, 1996. A desk review has been performed on the report issued for March 31, 1998 and 1997. The Hospital filed for a re-opening of its June 30, 1991, cost report.

NOTE #4: NET PATIENT SERVICE REVENUE (CONTINUED)

Blue Cross - Inpatient services rendered to Blue Cross subscribers are reimbursed at prospectively determined rates per day of hospitalization. The prospectively determined per-diem rates are not subject to retroactive adjustment.

The Hospital has also entered into payment agreements with certain commercial insurance carriers, health maintenance organizations, and preferred provider organizations. The basis for payment to the Hospital under these agreements includes prospectively determined rates per discharge, discounts from established charges, and prospectively determined daily rates.

NOTE #5: ASSETS WHOSE USE IS LIMITED

Assets whose use is limited under agreements with third party payors for funded depreciation are summarized as follows:

andea depreciation are builded as recreations.	MARCH 31, 1999	MARCH 31, 1998
Certificate of deposit maturing 4-9-99 and 4-9-98 interest rate 5.28% and 5.95%.	\$1,061,150	\$1,000,000
Certificate of deposit maturing 4-16-99 and 4-16-98 interest rate 5.28% and 5.50%	153,763	503,150
Certificate of deposit maturing $10-16-99$ interest rate 5.50% .	256,935	
Certificate of deposit maturing 10-21-99 interest rate 4.95%.	100,000	
Certificate of deposit maturing 3-10-00 interest rate 4.84%.	400,000	
Accrued interest	79,292	66,934
	2,051,140	1,570,084

Certificates of deposit in excess of insured deposit limits were collateralized by U.S. Government securities and other Agency obligations.

NOTE #6: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Property, plant and equipment consist of the following:

	MARCH 31, 1999	MARCH 31, 1998
Land	\$52,159	\$52,159
Building and improvements	3,214,785	3,466,199
Equipment	3,520,157	3,522,359
	$\overline{6,787,101}$	7,040,717
Allowance for depreciation	4,216,249	4,206,770
Total property and equipment	2,570,852	2,833,947
	=======	=======

NOTE #7: ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Accounts receivable, patients consist of the following:

	MARCH 31, 1999	MARCH 31, 1998
Total receivables Less allowance for doubtful accounts	\$1,389,609 <u>687,269</u>	\$1,556,819 695,070
Total accounts receivable	702,340	861,749

The Hospital provides for bad debts using formulas supporting collectibility of related patient groupings. When accounts are charged off they are removed from the related asset account and the allowance for bad debt account.

The Hospital is located in Lutcher, Louisiana and grants credit without personal collateral to its patients, most of whom are residents in the area. The mix of patient service revenues are as follows:

	<u>1999</u>	<u> 1998</u>
Medicare/Medicaid	52%	56%
Commercial insurance	38	35
Self pay	10	9

NOTE #8: FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

The Hospital received federal assistance under the Hill-Burton Grant. These monies were received in prior years. The Hospital is obligated under the Hill-Burton Uncompensated Service Regulations to provide services without charge to eligible individuals until it meets its compliance level. The Hospital met its compliance level in FYE March 31, 1999.

NOTE #9: RISK MANAGEMENT

The Hospital is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The Hospital is a member of two separate trust funds established by the Louisiana Hospital Association that encompasses self insurance of (1) Hospital professional liability and comprehensive general liability, and (2) Statutory workers' compensation. The Hospital carries commercial insurance for all other risk of loss.

The trust funds for professional liability/comprehensive general liability and statutory workers compensation are pooling arrangements whereby there is a sharing of risks among the participants of the trust funds. The Hospital reports its premiums as insurance expenditures and expenses these premiums over the pro rata periods involved.

NOTE #10: OPERATING LEASES

The Hospital Service District entered into operating lease for land and buildings it occupies in LaPlace, Louisiana, that expired July 1988. Rental expense reflected in Loss on Psychiatric Hospital Operations amounted to \$0, for the year ended March 31, 1999, and \$240,000, for the year ended March 31, 1998 related to this lease. There are no future minimum annual rentals associated with this lease.

NOTE #11: LONG-TERM DEBT

•	Long-term debt consist of the following	MARCH 31, 1999	MARCH 31, 1998
	Installment obligation incurred to purchase EEG equipment requiring monthly payments including into of \$520 thru september 2000	terest \$8,179	\$12,703
	Installment obligation incurred to purchase Nuclea equipment requiring monthly payments including into of \$2,565 thru September 2002		119,734
	Installment obligation incurred to purchase Mammoo equipment requiring monthly payments including int of \$1,152 thru August 2002		<u>52,567</u>
		145,349	185,004
	Less current maturities	40,889	38,742
		104,460	146,262

The following table reflects the maturity schedule of these obligations.

			======
			104,460
FYE March	31,	2003	20,763
FYE March	31,	2002	41,717
FYE March	31,	2001	41,980

Supplemental Information

Board of Commissioners St. James Parish Hospital Service District St. James Parish Hospital Lutcher, Louisiana

Gentlemen:

The purpose of our audit of the financial statements of

ST. JAMES PARISH HOSPITAL SERVICE DISTRICT LUTCHER, LOUISIANA

was to formulate an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

The financial data which follows is not necessary for a fair presentation of financial position, results of operations and cash flows, in conformity with generally accepted auditing standards. It is presented for supplementary analysis purposes. It was subjected to audit procedures applied in the examinations of the financial statements for the years ended March 31, 1999, and March 31, 1998, and in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Dany Ahren

September 16, 1999

ST. JAMES PARISH HOSPITAL SERVICE DISTRICT STATEMENT OF REVENUES YEARS ENDED MARCH 31, 1999, AND MARCH 31, 1998

	YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1999	YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1998
PATIENT SERVICE REVENUES		
Room and nursing Central supply Laboratory Radiology Pharmacy Operating and recovery Respiratory therapy Emergency room Physical therapy Anesthesiology Cardiology Ultrasound Nuclear medicine CT Scan Mammogram Home Health Council on Aging West Bank Clinic Psych Center East Bank Clinic	\$535,543 515,385 1,071,170 473,339 787,384 874,249 435,280 840,758 243,755 188,507 210,291 110,080 302,915 148,346 47,537 505,918 167,330 1,276 1,305,000 67,345	422,966 709,327 781,944 395,288 695,986 274,355 161,732 186,792 83,806 191,954 39,016 37,805 411,897 166,166 39,950
All other Totals	<u>29,834</u> <u>8,861,242</u>	7,721,811
CONTRACTUAL ADJUSTMENTS		
Medicare and Medicaid Insurance and other Hill Burton/Free Care Totals Totals	\$1,795,301 1,084,717 47,774 2,927,792 5,933,450 =======	\$978,443 771,334 198,092 1,947,869 5,773,942
OTHER OPERATING REVENUES - PATIENT SERVICES		
Cafeteria Rents Vending machines All other	\$6,001 12,000 1,849 <u>4,720</u>	\$14,425 12,000 2,320 15,210
<u>Totals</u>	24,570 =====	43,955 ======

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ST. JAMES PARISH HOSPITAL SERVICE DISTRICT LOSS ON PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL OPERATIONS YEARS ENDED MARCH 31, 1999, AND MARCH 31, 1998

	YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1999	YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1998
NET PATIENT SERVICE REVENUE	<u> </u>	\$ <u>1,071,299</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Payrolls Employee benefits Contract services and fees Patient meals/services Rents Purchased Ancillary Bad debts Depreciation and amortization Supplies and other expenses Total operating expenses	<u> </u>	538,207 111,681 210,674 40,530 244,715 30,617 29,161 78,766 130,652
NET LOSS	0	(343,704)
ALLOCATED AS FOLLOWS		
CONTINUING OPERATIONS	\$0	\$0
DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS		(343,704)
NET LOSS	0	(343,704)

ST. JAMES PARISH HOSPITAL SERVICE DISTRICT STATEMENT OF OPERATING EXPENSES YEARS ENDED MARCH 31, 1999, AND MARCH 31, 1998

	YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1999	YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1998
PAYROLLS		
Nursing	\$449,609	\$480,966
Human Relations	25,411	29,645
Administration	145,822	145,029
Business office	131,199	124,495
Purchasing	33,939	31,849
Marketing	1.0.00	19,024
Laboratory	143,324	134,420
Radiology	93,310	125,704
Pharmacy	83,755	80,019
Operating and recovery	107,569	102,806
Emergency room	267,050 117,467	166,546
Anesthesiology Dietary	117,467 125,470	113,744 122,954
Housekeeping	65,950	55,659
Maintenance	66,905	63,827
Medical records	82,444	81,340
West Bank Clinic	,	63,095
Psych unit	418,885	397,018
East Bank Clinic	138,706	139,236
Cardiology	2,357	·
speech		308
Mammogram	4,047	14,288
Home Health	<u>215,307</u>	<u>188,158</u>
<u>Totals</u>	2,718,526	2,680,130
CONTRACT SERVICES AND PROFESSIONAL FEES		
Emergency room	\$539,472	\$458,271
Physical therapy	96,550	147,959
Respiratory therapy	158,028	149,858
Administration	289,446	242,475
Business office	56,702	67,426
Nursing	13,300	20,864
Laboratory	49,013	54,068
Nuclear medicine	47,631	39,785
Radiology	68,830	19,958
CT Scan	56,348	
Occupational medicine	30,634	12 000
Anesthesiology Maintenance	12,000	12,000
Maintenance Housekeeping	21,916 29,231	20,582 25,972
All other	40,182	43,331
Psych center	155,490	102,749
Home Health	30,426	49,376
Rural Health Transition	18,960	2,400
<u>Totals</u>	1,714,159	1,457,074

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ST. JAMES PARISH HOSPITAL SERVICE DISTRICT STATEMENT OF OPERATING EXPENSES YEARS ENDED MARCH 31, 1999, AND MARCH 31, 1998

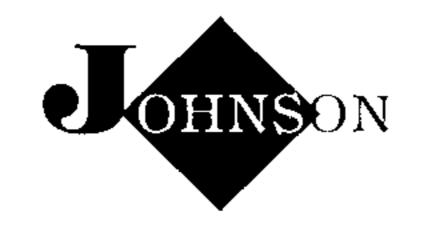
	YEAR ENDED MARCH 31,1999	YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1998
SUPPLIE <u>S</u>		
Nursing	\$43,964	\$15,399
Central supply	37,012	44,261 78,856
Laboratory	87,205 30,231	28,450
Radiology	38,012	25,863
Nuclear medicine	3,672	239
CT Scan	15,803	14,925
Home Health	136,871	99,992
Pharmacy Operating and recovery	117,711	114,817
Emergency room	24,726	10,729
Anesthesiology	1,264	2,621
Cardiology	891	1,052
Physical therapy	3,030	3,311
Mammogram	9,288	11,068
Dietary	58,197	80,133
Medical records	1,455	1,820 11,467
Housekeeping	14,832 29,420	19,537
Maintenance	13,254	15,939
Business office	75,638	81,689
Council on Aging Psych center	5,774	6,441
Administration	6,081	7,640
East/West Bank clinics	698	2,023
All other	5,68 <u>9</u>	<u>5,976</u>
Totals	760,718	684,248
	*====	FREE
OTHER EXPENSES		
Travel and training	\$60,898	\$49,306
Purchase ancillary	38,907	56,995
Other administrative	3,445	4,140
Postage	23,079	27,807
Licenses	5,782	21,321
Advertising	46,164	56,021
All other	7,036	
<u>Totals</u>	185,311	215,590
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CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

LARRY G. JOHNSON



A Professional Accounting Corporation

September 16, 1999

The Board of Commissioners St. James Parish Hospital District Post Office Box 430 Lutcher, Louisiana 70071

Members of the Board:

I have audited the basic financial statements of St. James Parish Hospital District, Lutcher, Louisiana, for the year ended March 31, 1999, and have issued my report thereon dated September 16, 1999. In connection with my audit, I tested transactions and records to obtain reasonable assurance about the Hospital Service District's compliance with laws and regulations that, if not complied with, I believe could have a material effect on the basic financial statements of the Hospital Service District. The management of St. James Parish Hospital Service District is responsible for the Hospital's compliance with laws and regulations.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards for financial and compliance audits contained in the <u>Standards for Audit of Governmental Organizations</u>, <u>Programs</u>, <u>Activities</u>, <u>and Functions</u>, issued by the U.S. General Accounting Office. Those standards require planning and performing the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Hospital Service District had, in all material respects, complied with laws and regulations that, if not complied with, I believe could have a material effect on the basic financial statements of the Hospital Service District. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence about the Hospital Service District's compliance with those laws and regulations.

Material instances of noncompliance consist of failures to follow requirements, or violations of prohibitions, contained in statutes, regulations, contracts, or grants that cause us to conclude that the aggregation of the misstatements resulting from those failures or violations is material to the financial statements. The results of my tests of compliance disclosed the following instances of noncompliance that may be material to the financial statements but for which the ultimate resolution cannot presently be determined. Accordingly, no provision for any liability that may result has been recognized in St. James Parish Hospital Service District's 1999 financial statements.

Finding:

An investigation was conducted of activities involving certain contracts entered into by the former administrator of the Hospital and reported our findings to you in December 95.

I met with representatives of State of Louisiana - Department of Justice - Criminal Division - Medicaid Fraud and reported our findings to them. We expressed our concerns centering around contracts with (1) Mental Health Management / Alexandria Health Concepts (2) Regional Development & Research / Louisiana Resource Management (3) Medical Management Options / Evangeline Psychiatric.

Explanation: To the best of my knowledge the representatives referred to above are still in the process of their investigation.

Finding: Accounts receivable trial balances relating to the Hospitals clinics were not reconciled to their respective control accounts at March 31, 1998.

Explanation: Management ascertains that these accounts are reconciled and that if/when other duties are outsourced, proper procedures are instituted immediately. In 1999 the auditor noted no instances whereby these accounts were not reconciled.

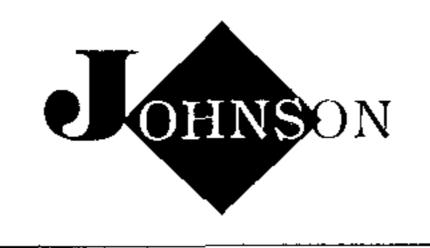
I considered these instances of noncompliance in forming my opinion on whether the St. James Parish Hospital Service District's 1999 financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles, and this report does not affect my report dated September 16, 1999, on those financial statements.

This report is intended for the information of the Board of commissioners and management. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

Very truly yours,

LARRY G. JOHNSON - APAC

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A PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING CORPORATION

September 16, 1999

The Board of Commissioners St. James Parish Hospital District Post Office Box 430 Lutcher, Louisiana

Members of the Board:

I have audited the financial statements of St. James Parish Hospital District, Lutcher, Louisiana, as of and for the year ended March 31, 1999, and have issued my report thereon dated September 16, 1999.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and <u>Government Auditing Standards</u>, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

In planning and performing my audit of the financial statements of St. James Parish Hospital District, Lutcher, Louisiana, for the year ended March 31, 1999, I obtained an understanding of the internal control structure. With respect to the internal control structure, I obtained an understanding of the design of relevant policies and procedures and whether they have been placed in operation, and I assessed control risk in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing my opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control structure. Accordingly I do not express such an opinion.

The management of St. James Parish Hospital District, Lutcher, Louisiana, is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure. In fulfilling this responsibility, estimates and judgements by management are required to assess the expected benefits and related cost of internal control policies and procedures. The objectives of an internal control structure are to provide management with reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition, and that transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization and recorded properly to permit the preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Because of inherent limitations in any internal control structure, errors or irregularities may nevertheless occur and not be detected. Also, projection of any evaluation of the structure to future periods is subject to the risk that procedures may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the effectiveness of the design and operation of policies and procedures may deteriorate.

My consideration of the internal control structure would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control structure that might be material weaknesses under standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. A material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the specific internal control structure elements does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that errors or irregularities in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statement being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions.

I noted the following reportable condition.

Segregation of Duties / Written Policies and Procedures

During my review of the internal control structure, I noted a lack of segregation of duties of accounting functions due to the limited number of personnel, and a lack of written policies and procedures in certain areas that include collections/accounts receivable recordings, cash disbursements/disbursement journals.

I continue to see attempts to remedy this/these weaknesses and applaud these efforts. I feel you have adequate accounting personnel to develop procedures that will strenghten these weaknesses.

This report is intended for the information of the Board, Management and the Legislative Auditor. This restriction in not intended to limit the distribution of this report, which is a matter of public record.

Very truly yours,

LARRY G. JOHNSON - APAC

By: Dany Alexan