



Salina Regional Health Center

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact - Tom Bell

Executive Director of Govt. & Public Relations

785-452-7701

Contact – Beth Vinson

Director of Marketing

785-452-6824

Hospice of Salina no longer accepting inpatients at Kaye Pogue Hospice Center

(February 21, 2014) Effective Feb. 28, Hospice of Salina will no longer accept inpatients at the Kaye Pogue Hospice Center. Hospice of Salina home care services will remain at the center and patients in the unit on Feb. 28 will continue being cared for as long as necessary.

Since opening in 2006, the Hospice of Salina inpatient unit at the Kaye Pogue Hospice Center has struggled to generate enough revenue to cover costs. Since taking over operation of Hospice of Salina in September 2008, Salina Regional Health Center has underwritten operations by more than \$3 million to cover losses and keep the inpatient unit open.

Various marketing and communications efforts have been undertaken in local and regional markets but the number of inpatients has never been high enough to cover even half of daily expenses. The unit was built with 12 beds but a typical day sees one or two patients in the center. Experience shows that many hospice patients prefer to be at home with loved ones or remain in their home community.

A consulting firm was hired to find ways to increase inpatient activity but to no avail.

SRHC administrative staff and the Board of Trustees have discussed this issue for more than seven years. This decision was ultimately forced by recent changes in health care that have created unprecedented reductions in revenue, making the annual Hospice subsidy impossible to

maintain. Trends show that SRHC contributions to the inpatient unit would have to be more than \$700,000 annually for the facility to remain open.

SRHC will continue working with the government and insurance companies to achieve adequate reimbursements for inpatient hospice care.

Patients needing inpatient hospice care can enter long term care facilities where Hospice of Salina can provide outpatient services. SRHC will admit Hospice of Salina patients for medical acute care needs.

The name of the Kaye Pogue Hospice Center will not change and all employees in the inpatient unit will be offered positions with SRHC.

###