

# **Beckley Appalachian Regional Healthcare Hospital**

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## **West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Enters Into Agreement with Beckley ARH Hospital for New Psychiatric Facility**

**April 21, 2009, Beckley, WVA.** — Appalachian Regional Healthcare (ARH) and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources announced today they have entered into a non-binding letter of commitment to construct a new 100-bed psychiatric treatment facility at Beckley ARH Hospital.

The commitment letter outlines a 30-year agreement term for the construction of a psychiatric treatment facility on the campus of Beckley ARH and to provide the West Virginia Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities guaranteed access to a minimum of 38 beds for behavioral health patients.

The cost of the project is estimated at \$47 million with tentative completion within 30 months contingent upon procurement of all necessary licenses and Certificate of Need Approval, appropriate financing and approval by the ARH Board of Trustees.

“This agreement between the department and Beckley ARH Hospital will help us realize one part of our plan to take care of psychiatric inpatient needs. We will continue to work toward building a mental health community infrastructure on behalf of the people we both serve,” said Department of Health and Human Resources Cabinet Secretary Martha Y. Walker.

As a leader in providing psychiatric care to West Virginians for more than 34 years, Beckley ARH Community CEO Rocco Massey said a state psychiatric center on the local hospital campus is the most logical site for such an important facility.

“Beckley ARH is firmly committed to meeting the mental health needs of the Beckley community and the state of West Virginia as a whole. We are excited to have reached an agreement with the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources following a year of discussion,” Massey said. “We would also like to thank our community and legislators for their continued support of this project as Beckley ARH moves ahead with plans to expand services and works to develop a solution to the desperate need for additional access to psychiatric care for those living with mental illness.”