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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Transitional living facility to open on William R. Sharpe, Jr. Hospital campus providing 25 Jobs to Lewis County**

A transitional living facility will open this summer on the campus of William R. Sharpe, Jr. Hospital in Weston providing transitional training to residents who are preparing for reintegration into a community setting.

"Our goal is to assist the resident who is transitioning from an extended length of stay in a state psychiatric hospital into the community and prepare that resident to become a self-reliant and law abiding citizen." stated Janice Woofter, director of the statewide forensic program and facilitator of the TLF project.

The TLF will provide a wide range of services to the residents. "Rehabilitation oriented services," Woofter said, "are associated with positive outcomes and a reduced number of people returning to the state hospitals."

Woofter added that discharge from the TLF will be considered when the resident has mastered the skills to live in the community, has been evaluated to be stable and an appropriate placement can be structured to promote the individual in becoming a functional member of their own community.

"The TLF will be staffed with 25 full time employees who will provide new employment opportunities for Lewis County," Woofter said.

Jack C. Clohan Jr. CEO of William R. Sharpe, Jr. Hospital was quoted as saying, "With the help of Senator Sharpe, the Legislature provided funding in 2002 to support this greatly needed program. We believe the new TLF will enhance services to West Virginians and serve as a model for other states."

Current plans call for the facility to open by Aug. 1 with a ribbon cutting and an open house planned for the community prior to opening.

For more information, please call 269-1210 ext. 388.

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