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McLeod To Construct New Emergency Department

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Dillon County recently celebrated the 100th anniversary of its creation on February 5, 1910. Its towns of Dillon, Latta, and Lake View had grown with the new railroad line from Florence.

Today, Florence and Dillon are linked by their hospitals — McLeod Regional Medical Center and McLeod Medical

Center Dillon. The only hospital in Dillon County, McLeod Medical Center Dillon became part of McLeod Health in 1997, continuing its tradition of bringing excellent health care to the people in that corner of South Carolina and the bordering counties of North Carolina.

The needs of those citizens continue to grow. Through its Emergency Department (ED), McLeod Dillon is the only provider of care in Dillon County 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Based on historical data, the volume of patients using the Emergency Department for trauma and primary care is projected to continue to grow at a rate of 2.2 percent each year for the next ten years.

To meet that need, plans are underway for construction of a new Emergency Department at McLeod Dillon. A ceremonial groundbreaking for the project will be held on Monday, March 8 at 2 p.m. at the front entrance of the hospital.

"Construction of a new Emergency Department at McLeod Dillon will make emergency care more accessible and timely for patients in the area," said Deborah D. Locklair, Administrator at McLeod Dillon. "In creating the new design, the focus of the expansion has been on efficiency and flexibility -- providing for future growth and changes based upon population and technology. This focus will optimize benefits to the community."

The renovation and construction project is estimated at \$6.3 million. With the addition of approximately 9,365 square feet, it will have 17 new exam and treatment rooms, including designated triage and trauma rooms, a decontamination area, and staff support spaces. A new entrance for walk-in patients will keep them separate from those arriving by ambulance. A new family waiting area has been designed for improved privacy and safety. In addition, a dedicated site for a helicopter pad will allow transporting of trauma patients. Existing Emergency Department exam rooms and support areas will be renovated to flow into the new construction.

In 2006, the Emergency Department at McLeod Dillon treated nearly 24,000 patients. In 2009, there were more than 25,000 Emergency Department visits, partly because of limited options for urgent care or after-hours primary care. All ages of patients are treated -- from pediatric to geriatric.

A 79-bed community, not-for-profit, acute-care hospital, McLeod Dillon has a long history of providing quality care to its community.

Committed to improving the health status of those it serves, McLeod has invested in services and technology in an unceasing effort to meet the health needs of the Dillon community.

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