

## Blue Ridge Community Health Services begins demolition of old facility

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**HENDERSONVILLE** — Demolition began Wednesday on the Blue Ridge Health Services Facility in Hendersonville.

The old facility is a farmhouse that is more than 60 years old. The farmhouse had undergone numerous updates and repairs over the years, including the addition of "trailers" that were attached to the original structure more than 25 years ago. Over time, structural conditions grew so bleak that the facility was evacuated in July 2009 leaving a huge gap in the effective delivery of health care in western North Carolina.

E. Luke Greene Company is performing the demolition. "Everything possible is being recycled," stated Ted Dwomick, general superintendent. "Steel will be reused; bricks will be used for clean landfill. The Greene Company employs green methods of demolition."

Greg Page, President of Hermosa Companies, was present to observe the first step of the demolition. "We've been with Blue Ridge for two years now, from the feasibility study through the plan development and now towards construction. I'm glad to be here today to witness and celebrate this demolition today," he said.

All total, the demolition and construction of the new facility will take approximately 12 months. Project costs are estimated to be \$4.9 million with revenue generated through the combination of a pending capital campaign and debit service. The new 27,000 square foot facility will house the Kate B. Reynolds Children's Center, Blue Ridge Family Practice, mental health services, a pharmacy, as well as space for various medical support services, including radiology and laboratory services, which are being planned in collaboration with Pardee Hospital. Dental services will continue to be provided at the William Stokes Dental Center on the BRCHS campus.

The new building will allow BRCHS to increase their family practice providers from six to eight

immediately, with room for two more should the need continue to grow. Three pediatricians will be on-site, with room for one more additional provider in the future.

In addition to an increase in treatment rooms, the plans also include an enhanced on-site pharmacy that is expected to dispense 30,000 prescriptions per year, three times more volume than is being provided at their current pharmacy at an off-site location.