

## THR eyes Flower Mound, Cedar Hill for new hospitals

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Texas Health Resources officials are planning two new joint venture hospitals with physicians, likely in Flower Mound and Cedar Hill.

THR currently is seeking physician partners for a \$160 million, 130-bed hospital that will be built in Flower Mound, Lewisville or Coppell, said Steve Hanson, THR senior executive vice president for system alignment and performance. And before the end of the year, THR hopes to have a deal under way in the southern part of Dallas County, either in Cedar Hill or DeSoto.

"We're trying to look at (adding a southern hospital) in the balance of 2007; trying to firm up our plans there," Hanson said. "We've had a lot of physician interest expressed in that area. ... It's not quite on the immediate time frame of Flower Mound. Flower Mound (has been) the highest priority for a number of years. Cedar Hill has also ranked pretty high on our planning."

The \$160 million price tag for the Denton County hospital does not include a medical office building, or buildings, that are expected to be built on the campus. Ideally, THR is looking to acquire 15 to 25 acres of land to build the hospital and allow for future growth, Hanson said.

The hospitals are part of \$1.5 billion budgeted for construction and expansion under THR's strategic plan which was approved in April.

Both of the planned hospitals are expected to be operated in a joint venture arrangement with physician partners.

So far, 100 physicians have expressed interest in the Denton County hospital. The plan is for physicians ownership to represent a "little under 50 percent" of the new hospital, Hanson said.

Documents to sign physician investors were released last week and will conclude in late August or early September, Hanson said. THR still has to approve any plans for new facilities, which could happen at its October board meeting.

In addition to these projects, THR also has land in Frisco, Mansfield and in the Alliance corridor at the Circle T Ranch. Hanson said that there were no plans for those sites at this time, but that the sites continue to be included in multiyear planning.

The Arlington-based health system owns 13 hospitals and is a partner in seven other hospitals.

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