



## **Editorial: A deal, done**

September 2, 2015

As our front page trumpets today, the Capella Healthcare/MUSC Health takeover of KershawHealth is a done deal.

Although we've had our questions at times, we have said pretty much since the beginning we believe this is the best outcome for our soon-to-be former public hospital. For years, KershawHealth has reported losses, to the point where -- more than two years ago, now -- we learned the hospital could lose \$32 million by 2018 if things kept going the way they were at the time.

Since then, KershawHealth has taken measures to cut away at some of those losses. The most notable of these were creating the Express Care track in its emergency department and transferring emergency management services (a/k/a EMS) to Kershaw County.

Beginning Oct. 1, the bulk of KershawHealth (not including the Karesh Long Term Care Center) will no longer be an arm of Kershaw County government. In a roundabout way, this does take decision making out of the public's hands, and it remains to be seen if a for-profit enterprise will succeed where a non-profit has not.

But with a promised \$55 million investment during its first 10 years, Capella is bringing much needed capital to KershawHealth.

If for this and nothing else, there is cause to celebrate.

<http://www.chronicle-independent.com/section/51/article/40320/>