L. Ray Humphreys (center), President and CEO of Anderson Regional Medical Center, sig ns the merger document.
Sitting at the table with him are Dr. Joseph Anderson (left), Chairman of the Anderson Regional Medical Center Board of Directors, and Pam Tvarkunas, former CEO of Riley Hospital, now VP of the ARMC- South. Back row, standing, from left are: John Anderson, VP of Clinical Operations; Katie Chamblee, VP of Human Resources; Rick Hightower, VP of Physician Services; Dr. Bradley Boone, Chief of Medical Staff; Wink Glover, ARMC Attorney; Tony Rispoli, VP of Finance/CFO; Wanda Cooper, VP of Professional Services; Gene Raley, Board Member; and Phil Brooks, Board Member.

MERIDIAN, MS (December 28, 2010) – Anderson Regional Medical Center confirmed today it has reached a definitive agreement to merge with Riley Hospital, currently owned by Health Management Associates, Inc. (HMA), with the transaction expected to be finalized December 31, pending regulatory approvals.

According to Anderson President and CEO, L. Ray Humphreys, Anderson will take ownership January 1, 2011, of substantially all of the assets of Riley Hospital. The acquisition will add 140 licensed beds, making Anderson Regional a 400-bed facility - among the largest in the state and region. Anderson will add several key service lines including long-term acute care, wound care, inpatient rehabilitation, a pain management center and enhanced obstetrics services.

“This is a natural fit for Anderson Regional Medical Center,” said Humphreys. “This acquisition will allow our healthcare system to expand its campus, enhance and increase key services to help us better serve the residents of this region.”

Working with Riley’s leadership and professional team, Anderson plans an orderly transition, planning no near-term substantive changes that might impact patients, physicians or interrupt scheduling and other procedures already in place.

“We are optimistic the purchase will proceed and close in a timely manner, allowing for what we hope will be a seamless transition merging the services, capabilities, technical and human resources of Riley into the Anderson family,” said Riley CEO Pam Tvarkunas. “We’re committed to working together, collaborative planning and maintaining a high level of service.”

Humphreys said patients can keep pre-existing appointments, employees will report as normal and all stakeholders will be notified of any changes as they happen in the weeks and months to come.

Humphreys said the approximately 400 employees at Riley Hospital would become Anderson Regional Medical Center employees on January 1, 2011. Anderson Regional will employ approximately 1,700 after the sale is finalized.

“Our mission is clear – to provide healing through the services we provide and to improve life for the people who live and work here,” Humphreys said. “This is consistent with our mission, and it elevates the Meridian and East Mississippi/West Alabama region as a medical hub.”

Anderson, founded in 1928, is already the largest medical center in East Mississippi. Anderson introduced the area’s first cardiovascular program and also operates a regional cancer center, Level III trauma center emergency room, ICU/CCU (neonatal and adult) and obstetrics. The organization is now one of the largest medical systems in Mississippi and one of the state’s major employers.