

**Idaho Falls Post Register, Tuesday, April 13, 2010 – by Clark Corbin**

## Company invests in hospital

An out-of-state health care company has purchased an ownership interest in Idaho Falls' Mountain View Hospital. Symbion Inc. of Nashville, Tenn., has made a financial investment in the hospital and will provide management services, Mountain View CEO James Adamson said Monday.

In return, Adamson said, Symbion will be permitted to appoint one person to Mountain View's four-member board of directors and will receive ownership shares in the hospital.

The agreement was reached Friday. Representatives from both Mountain View and Symbion declined to disclose terms of the deal or say what percentage of the hospital is now owned by Symbion. Spokesmen for Mountain View billed the move as a partnership that will allow doctors to shift their focus away from management duties and concentrate on patient care.

"When the phone rings, I know it is going to be patient-care driven, and not (about) what we can spend on (equipment and supplies)," said Dr. Ty Erickson, chairman of the hospital's board.

Mountain View was chartered in 2002 by a group of 30 physicians, and the hospital's doctors will continue to hold an ownership interest. The board will now be composed of Adamson, two Mountain View physicians and one Symbion representative, Adamson said.

In addition to shifting management responsibilities away from physicians, the partnership will offer Mountain View a chance to expand its current building and the size of its staff, Adamson said. He declined to discuss specific plans but said access to more capital will allow Mountain View to expand by 2012.

Ken Mitchell, Symbion's senior vice president for development, said his company will not cut Mountain View's staffing or service levels.

"There will be no changes," Mitchell said. "(Mountain View) is managed very well, and we're here to provide resources to help them grow and increase services."

Symbion currently has an interest in 60 medical centers across the country, the majority of which are surgery centers, Mitchell said.

Mountain View executives began seeking a partnership to provide capital and management services about a year and a half ago, Adamson said. Hospital officials considered approximately 15 companies and entered into serious talks with four of those entities, including Symbion. Mountain View is presently building a transitional care unit along Hitt Road that will be completed by July and staffed by October, Adamson said.