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THE CHAMBER FOR REGIONAL PROSPERITY

## **BBA calls on Commission to define future plan for Cooper Green before vote**

### **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**BIRMINGHAM**, Ala. – August 10, 2012 – The Birmingham Business Alliance (BBA) today called upon the Jefferson County Commission to define and articulate a clear plan for indigent care in Jefferson County before voting to cease inpatient services at Cooper Green Mercy Hospital.

BBA Chairman John D. Johns, CEO of Protective Life Corp., speaking for the BBA, said the following: "The Birmingham Business Alliance fully appreciates that some fundamental changes are needed in the current structure and operation of Cooper Green. We believe that a broad community consensus can be developed around a plan that would both improve the quality of indigent health care and lower costs to a level the County can afford, if the right process is employed. We call on the Commission to put forth such a plan before taking any action on inpatient services. We also call on the Commission to communicate clearly to the community why the new plan is necessary and how it will impact the indigent community. A quick decision to cease inpatient care, in the absence of a solid process, will only create a climate of confusion, distrust and anxiety in the County. A poorly structured plan can hurt some of our most vulnerable citizens and have a serious negative impact on our other health care providers. We have every confidence that the Commissioners will come together to do the right thing in the right way for our citizens."

The Birmingham Business Alliance is a dynamic advocate, unifying voice and constant catalyst for economic development and business prosperity for the Birmingham region. For more information about the BBA visit its website at [www.birminghambusinessalliance.com](http://www.birminghambusinessalliance.com).

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