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WAYNE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, BCBSNC TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS

A meeting today between Wayne Memorial Hospital President and CEO Bill Paugh and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina President and CEO Brad Wilson ended with an agreement that negotiations between the two parties will resume immediately.

"We both agreed it is in the best interest of the citizens of Wayne County for both sides to come back to the table to attempt to achieve a compromise," Paugh said. "We need to make the best use of everyone's time between now and the expiration of the current contract, and we are directing our teams back to the negotiating table to make that happen."

"Today's conversation was a good start," said Wilson. "While challenges remain, both sides agreed to work as hard as we can in the days ahead to reach an agreement that provides our customers access to quality, affordable health care."

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