Governor's Office of Economic Development

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 13, 2007
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Coventry Health Care Adding 200 Jobs in Aberdeen

PIERRE, S.D. – Bethesda, Maryland - based Coventry Health Care (Coventry) is expanding its Aberdeen division, officials announced today, Thursday December 13. The expansion includes adding 200 jobs in the next three years, more than doubling the company's existing Aberdeen office of 60.

"We're excited about our growth in Aberdeen, and nationwide. State and local leaders made the decision to expand here an easy one, and we look forward to continued success in South Dakota," said Joe Harris, Vice President of Operations for Coventry.

"Today's announcement is proof that Aberdeen's workforce stands out on the national stage," said Lt. Gov. Dennis Daugaard who spoke at the announcement. "This company could have chosen to expand in any of its divisions across the country, but they recognized that Aberdeen offered the workforce and strong community spirit that benefits the bottom line."

The Aberdeen Coventry division was previously part of Mutual of Omaha, but was sold to Coventry earlier this year. Community leaders are pleased that not only were 60-70 jobs retained, but more will be created.

"As we continue to add career opportunities to people of the Aberdeen area, the quality of a company is even more important than the number of jobs produced or any short-term economic boost. Those of us working to GROW Aberdeen do so because we want our friends and neighbors and all newcomers to have access to work that not only pays the bills, but also creates choices for career opportunities. Coventry represents such an opportunity and it is an honor for me to be asked to help welcome the company to Aberdeen," said Mayor Mike Levsen.

"When a national company changes hands, local communities immediately begin to be concerned about what that means for its specific division. In this instance, it turned out very well for Aberdeen. That is a testament to our workforce, and our ability to show corporate leaders that we're the best home for its continued growth," said Jim Barringer, Executive Vice President of the Aberdeen Development Corporation.

About Coventry

Coventry Health Care (www.cvty.com) is a diversified national managed healthcare company based in Bethesda, Maryland, operating health plans, insurance companies, network rental and workers' compensation services companies. Through its Commercial Business, Individual Consumer & Government Business, and Specialty Business divisions, Coventry provides a full range of risk and fee-based managed care products and services to a broad cross section of individuals, employer and

government-funded groups, government agencies, and other insurance carriers and administrators.

About Aberdeen Development Corporation

The Aberdeen Development Corporation (www.adcsd.com) of Aberdeen, South Dakota, is a full-service community development corporation with a 50-year history, focusing on new business recruitment, local expansion and start-ups. The Aberdeen Development Corporation does this by designing, building, and leasing industrial and office facilities with the help of state and local incentives.

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