



News Release

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Prime Healthcare Services Announces Leadership for St. Joseph and St. Mary's Medical Centers

The sale of St. Joseph and St. Mary's Medical Centers to Prime Healthcare Services became effective Saturday, February 14. With that, comes the announcement of the leadership of the two hospitals.

Prime Healthcare Services has named **Robert J. Erickson** as the chief executive officer of St. Joseph Medical Center effective Monday, February 16. Erickson comes to Kansas City from St. Francis Health Center in Topeka, Kan., where he served as president and CEO for the past five years.

Erickson has served as a healthcare leader for more than 20 years and has a long history of creating a culture of providing safe, high-quality care. Prior to joining St. Francis, Erickson was the regional chief operating officer for Aspirus Inc., a nonprofit, community-directed health system based in Wausau, Wis.

Erickson earned his bachelor's degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology from Marquette University, Milwaukee, and a master's degree in Speech and Hearing Science from Arizona State University, Tempe, Ariz. He completed all coursework for a doctorate in Cognitive Psychology from Arizona State University before making a career change to business administration.

Debra L. Cartwright, CPA, FACHE, FHFMA, has been named regional chief financial officer of the four Prime Healthcare Services hospitals in the Kansas City area (St. Joseph in Kansas City, Mo.; St. Mary's in Blue Springs, Mo.; Providence Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan.; and Saint John Hospital in Leavenworth, Kan.)

Cartwright served as CFO in Kansas hospitals for the past eight years. Cartwright served for six years as the CFO of Via Christi Health in southeast Kansas, and most recently as the CFO for St. Francis Health in Topeka, Kansas.

She earned a bachelor's degree in Accounting from Missouri State University in Springfield, Mo., and a master's in Business and Healthcare Administration from Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo.

Deb Ohnoutka, BSN, MHA, NEA-BC, RN, chief nursing officer for St. Joseph and St. Mary's Medical Centers will remain in that leadership position. As CNO, Ohnoutka provides oversight



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of nursing initiatives and is committed to cultivating a safe and healing environment for patients and associates.

Ohnoutka spent 12 years at Shawnee Mission Medical Center as the administrative director of Women's and Children's Services.

Ohnoutka has a master's degree in Healthcare Administration from Central Michigan State University, a bachelor's degree in nursing from Midland Lutheran College and a registered nurse diploma from the Jennie Edmunson School of Nursing in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

St. Mary's CEO will be announced at a later date.

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St. Joseph Medical Center is a 310-bed hospital providing a wide range of acute care and outpatient services from a 24-hour emergency department to state-of-the-art cardiovascular care. St. Joseph has earned the Magnet designation from The American Nurses Credentialing Center for excellence in nursing. Key services include the Heart Institute, Women's Health Institute and Joint and Spine Institute. For more information, visit stjosephkc.com.

St. Mary's Medical Center is a 146-bed hospital providing a wide range of acute care and outpatient services from a 24-hour emergency department to state-of-the-art cardiovascular care. Key services include the Heart Institute, Stroke Center, Breast Center, Joint and Spine Institute and Surgical Institutes and Inpatient Rehabilitation Center. For more information, visit stmaryskc.com.