

FOR RELEASE JANUARY 19, 2012

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OTTAWA REGIONAL TO JOIN OSF HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

January 19, 2012, Ottawa, IL – A definitive agreement has been signed that may result in Ottawa Regional Hospital & Healthcare Center joining the OSF HealthCare System. Ottawa Regional Hospital, to be renamed OSF Saint Elizabeth Medical Center, is expected to join the Catholic system later this spring.

The announcement comes after nearly 15 months of due diligence, a process described by the organizations as validating the benefits to the communities they serve. Before a change of ownership occurs Ottawa Regional's corporate members must ratify the proposed arrangement and the organizations must receive approval from the Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board.

"We have determined that partnering with OSF HealthCare will in fact enhance our ability to provide outstanding medical care," said Robert Chaffin, President and CEO of Ottawa Regional. "The new affiliation will provide local residents improved access to high quality, cost effective services."

Ottawa Regional Governing Board Chairman Steven Gonzalo agrees. "As one of the largest health care networks in Illinois, OSF HealthCare has invested wisely in new processes and technologies to better serve patients," said Gonzalo. "Our integration will make us more efficient."

Among the anticipated benefits local residents will experience is greater access to integrated primary, secondary, and advanced tertiary health care services. Achieving excellence in clinical innovations, services, quality, costs and outcomes have also been identified as goals of both organizations.

The affiliation makes strategic sense to OSF HealthCare CEO Kevin Schoeplein who has bright hopes for the future of health care in Ottawa and surrounding areas. "We are pleased with and appreciative of the support we've received from business leaders, elected officials, other hospitals, and from our respective medical staffs, including independent physicians who serve our patients," said Schoeplein. "It demonstrates a collaborative, vested interest in our Mission to serve persons with the greatest care and love in a community that celebrates the gift of life."

OSF HealthCare System, owned and operated by The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, Peoria, Illinois, includes OSF HealthCare System consisting of six acute care facilities in Illinois and one in Michigan, one long-term care facility and two colleges of nursing. It also has a physician organization, OSF Medical Group that includes a multi-specialty group of more than 650 member physicians and advanced care practitioners in more than 90 locations throughout Illinois. OSF owns an extensive

network of home health services in Illinois and Michigan known as OSF Home Care Services and also owns OSF Saint Francis, Inc., comprised of healthcare-related businesses, and OSF HealthCare Foundation, the philanthropic arm of OSF HealthCare System and OSF Home Care. The OSF HealthCare System Pioneer ACO includes only those facilities, services and programs available in Central Illinois.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: *What will happen to existing Ottawa Regional employees?*

A: Employees in good standing as of the Closing Date will continue to be employed following the Closing Date.

Q: *Will my doctor still be associated with your hospital?*

A: The affiliation will not affect or change the medical staff status or clinical privileges held by members of the Ottawa hospital's medical staff. However, the medical staff bylaws will be amended to include certain prohibitions as required by the Ethical and Religious Directives for Health Care Services. The employment agreements of all physicians presently employed by the Ottawa hospital will be honored.

Q: *What about my medical records?*

A: Patient records will remain intact and will be improved. As part of the affiliation, OSF HealthCare will provide the Ottawa hospital a comprehensive electronic medical record and revenue cycle management system which will be available in all acute and ambulatory settings including physician offices.