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To: Board Members, Physicians and Employees of  
SSM Health in Mid-Missouri

From: Steve Smoot, Chief Operating Officer, SSM Health

Date: October 11, 2021

Subject: Jefferson City SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital and Medical Group update

Let me begin by sharing my deepest gratitude for your extraordinary work over the past 18 months. You have courageously served the needs of this community during the COVID-19 pandemic, while also dealing with the added complexity and uncertainty of our planned transition of ownership in the region. This has been a long and difficult process, and your faithful service to our Mission and our patients with compassion and dedication has been remarkable.

For several months, SSM Health and Quorum Health have been discussing potential ownership transition of SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Jefferson City. Both parties have mutually decided to end those discussions.

While this is unfortunate, our intent has not changed: It remains our goal to ensure a sustainable and thriving healthcare ministry for the people of Jefferson City. To that end, we plan to further expand services and invest in the care we provide at SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital and Medical Group. To be clear, we will be undertaking steps to both stabilize and invigorate SSM Health services in this region.

As a first step, we are announcing the appointment of George Hayes, FACHE, as interim Regional President, effective today. As you may know, Mike Baumgartner has been serving in a dual role as Regional President for SSM's Mid-Missouri and Southern Illinois regions. With this transition, George will be able to provide his undivided attention on supporting each of you and our health ministry in Jefferson City as we look toward the future. Mike and I will work closely with George to ensure a seamless transition.

George comes to us from Innosphere Ventures in Fort Collins, Colo., where he served the last four years as a Healthcare Executive in Residence. He also has 12 years of experience as a health system President and CEO with University of Colorado Health, and 22 years in leadership with Saint Luke's Health System in Kansas City.

We have also restructured our clinical leadership in the Mid-Missouri region. In an effort to better coordinate and align our clinical care across both the hospital and medical group, we have combined the role of Chief Medical Officer and Medical Group President. Dr. Lenora Adams will fill this role on an interim basis while a search is conducted. With this restructure, Mike Misko, MD, has left the organization. Dr. Misko has been an important voice on our leadership team and a champion for rural healthcare throughout his career. We will miss him.

Please join me in welcoming George to our team, and in thanking Mike Baumgartner, Dr. Misko, and Dr. Adams for their service. We will hold town halls tomorrow at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., during which Mike, George and I will discuss these transitions and answer your questions. I look forward to our time together.

When considering our journey over the past few years in Mid-Missouri, I am reminded of our Founding Sisters, who often faced setbacks and uncertainty, and did so with courage and compassion. In each of you, I see our Sisters' spirit of service to Christ's healing ministry and encourage you to continue courageously.