

## **NEWS**

**Belleville, IL** St. Elizabeth's Hospital

**Breese, IL** St. Joseph's Hospital

**Decatur, IL** St. Mary's Hospital

**Effingham, IL** St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital

**Highland, IL** St. Joseph's Hospital

**Litchfield, IL** St. Francis Hospital

**Springfield, IL** St. John's Hospital

**Streator, IL** St. Mary's Hospital

**Chippewa Falls, WI** St. Joseph's Hospital

**Eau Claire, WI** Sacred Heart Hospital

**Green Bay, WI**St. Mary's Hospital
Medical Center
St. Vincent Hospital

**Sheboygan, WI** St. Nicholas Hospital

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## E. J. KUIPER NAMED PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, HSHS CENTRAL ILLINOIS DIVISION

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) today announced that E. J. Kuiper, MHA, DPT, FACHE has been appointed as HSHS Division President and Chief Executive Officer, Central Illinois Division (CID). He will begin his new role on January 6, 2014. E. J. currently serves as President and CEO of Saint Anthony's Health System in Alton, IL.

"I am thrilled at this opportunity to work with colleagues and physicians from across the Division and System as we transform the delivery of health care and provide an exceptional experience for our patients," said Dr. Kuiper. "It's an exciting time to join HSHS, as the System is embracing health care reform by integrating clinical services and developing innovative ways to improve the health and well-being of those we are called to serve. It's also very gratifying to join another progressive organization that is rooted in the tradition and values of Franciscan healing," he added.

In his new role at HSHS, Kuiper will provide leadership on strategic and long-term initiatives that enhance the delivery and quality of care across the CID, which includes St. Francis Hospital in Litchfield, St. John's Hospital and St. John's College in Springfield, St. Mary's Hospital in Decatur, St. Mary's Hospital in Streator, HSHS Medical Group and Prairie Heart Institute. He will also be involved in the selection process for a new President and CEO of St. John's Hospital. Larry Schumacher will continue to serve as interim President and CEO for St. John's until a candidate is selected.

"E. J. is extremely talented and has a proven track record as a healthcare leader. He has transformed the culture at St. Anthony's, creating an environment where colleagues are committed to patient safety and high quality care. He has also guided the organization on a path of strong productivity and fiscal accountability," said Mary Starmann-Harrison, HSHS President and Chief Executive Officer.

Kuiper has served at Saint Anthony's Health System since 2006, where he started as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer prior to being named as the hospital's President and CEO, and then as System President and CEO. During his tenure, Saint Anthony's has improved in all areas of performance and has been recognized for outstanding performance by such organizations as The Joint Commission and the Leap Frog Group. Earlier this year Saint Anthony's received the Greater St. Louis Business Health Coalition Award for Quality and Patient Safety. Kuiper also led the development of Saint Anthony's Physician Group, which now has over 30 physicians, and led initiatives to improve its operating performance.

"What impresses me most about E. J. has been his ability to lead organizations in very competitive markets and be successful. His success is due to his extensive health care experience, as well as his warm, open and engaging style that allows him to easily relate to colleagues, physicians and community members," said Larry Schumacher, HSHS Chief Operating Officer and Interim President of St. John's Hospital.

Prior to joining Saint Anthony's, Kuiper was the Chief Operating Officer of the 400 bed Southwest Florida Regional Medical Center in Fort Myers, Florida and was part of the HCA Executive Development program in Nashville, Tennessee. He received his MHA from Florida Gulf Coast University and a Clinical Doctorate in Physical Therapy from the University of St. Augustine. E.J. is a Fellow of the American College of Health Care Executives. He began his career in health care in 1991 as Physical Therapist in the Netherlands before moving to the United States.

E.J. and his wife Patty, a registered nurse, have three children, and plan to relocate to Springfield.

## **About Hospital Sisters Health System**

Hospital Sisters Health System is a Roman Catholic health care mission founded to continue the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. Sponsored by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, HSHS provides state-of-the-art health care framed in traditional values taught by St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. It is dedicated to serving all people, including the poor and the needy, at each of its 13 Local Systems in Illinois (Belleville, Breese, Decatur, Effingham, Highland, Litchfield, Springfield and Streator) and in Wisconsin (Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Sheboygan and two in Green Bay). For more information about HSHS, visit <a href="https://www.hshs.org">www.hshs.org</a>.