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NEWS RELEASE

Mercy expands management agreement with Washington County Memorial Hospital

CRYSTAL CITY, Mo. (October 17, 2017) – Just about a year ago, Mercy Jefferson began assisting Washington County Memorial Hospital (WCMH) by providing an interim chief executive officer for the Potosi hospital. That relationship is expanding to continue improving health care options for the residents of Washington County and surrounding communities.

On October 10, WCMH and Mercy entered a five-year management agreement that calls for Mercy to provide administrative oversight and other services for Washington County Memorial effective October 17, 2017.

The role of the board of directors of WCMH will not change; the board retains responsibility for all policies of the hospital. Mercy will manage hospital operations including the appointment of a hospital administrator, subject to approval by the WCMH board of directors.

Michele Meyer, who has served as interim chief executive officer since November 2016, will continue in the role of administrator. The management agreement is for a period of five years and may be extended.

“By formalizing this arrangement, the Washington County board and Mercy will jointly pursue a shared commitment to provide local access to physician services and hospital services for the residents of Potosi and surrounding communities,” said Eric Ammons, president of Mercy Hospital Jefferson. “Mercy’s position as an integrated health system serving the entire region enables Washington County Memorial to gain benefits that are not readily available for an independent operation.”

Mercy owns or manages 44 hospitals and several hundred outpatient clinics across four Midwestern states.

“Mercy is well known for its commitment to providing high-quality health services, and the strength of its resources will assist us in delivering the best care possible to people served by Washington County Memorial,” said Melvin Warden, WCMH board chairman.

In addition to providing day-to-day management for WCMH, Mercy will seek input from the community in developing a Community Master Plan to chart the future course for the hospital. Mercy will also assist with recruiting new primary care physicians and specialists, offer access to a group purchasing program for supplies and equipment, and provide consultation on developing new patient services and other administrative matters.

***Mercy Hospital Jefferson**, part of Mercy’s east Missouri region, is a 251-bed acute care hospital. Founded through community donations as Jefferson Memorial in 1957, the hospital provides a 24-hour emergency department; a full range of cardiovascular services; inpatient and outpatient surgeries, a family-centered maternity program; a cancer treatment center; behavioral health facilities; hospice, home care, and outpatient treatment services.*



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Mercy, named one of the top five large U.S. health systems in 2017 by Truven, an IBM Watson Health company, serves millions annually. Mercy includes 44 acute care and specialty (heart, children's, orthopedic and rehab) hospitals, more than 700 physician practices and outpatient facilities, 40,000 co-workers and more than 2,000 Mercy Clinic physicians in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma. Mercy also has outreach ministries in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

In Mercy's east Missouri region, services include an 859-bed hospital in west St. Louis County, 767-bed hospital in south St. Louis County, 251-bed hospital in Crystal City, 187-bed hospital in Washington, 28-bed critical access hospital in Troy, and Mercy Clinic, a 650-member multispecialty physician organization. For more about Mercy, visit www.mercy.net.