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## **Mercy Medical sale to Saint Alphonsus moves forward**

NAMPA — Mercy Medical Center CEO Joe Messmer said today that Catholic Health Initiatives signed a letter of intent to sell the Nampa hospital to Trinity Health Systems, an organization that owns Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise.

The agreement calls for transferring the three CHI facilities — Mercy Medical Center, Holy Rosary Hospital in Ontario and Saint Elizabeth Health Services in Baker City, Ore. — to Trinity Health, creating a new regional healthcare system to be operated by Trinity Health.

The ongoing discussions have no effect on current operations. If the facilities combine, all facilities will remain open and it is expected that most employees will continue in their positions. Transfer of the three CHI hospitals to Trinity Health could occur within the next several months.

"Combining the strengths of our three hospitals with Saint Alphonsus appears to be the best strategy for the future of our health care ministry," said Kevin Lofton, president and CEO of Catholic Health Initiatives. "Beyond our common values and religious heritage, all four hospitals are dedicated to improving the health of the communities they serve."

"We are excited about the opportunities that a regional health care system will bring to Mercy Medical Center," Messmer said. "It will most definitely help us better serve Nampa and surrounding communities."

Over the past several months, board and senior leaders of Mercy Medical Center, Holy Rosary Medical Center, St. Elizabeth's Health Services and CHI have explored the potential benefits of formally aligning the three hospitals with another hospital or health system.