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Mercy set for sale to Saint Al's owner

Firm that owns Nampa medical center signs letter of intent to sell to parent company of Boise hospital

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

The agreement would transfer the three CHI facilities — Mercy Medical Center, Holy Rosary Medical Center in Ontario and St. Elizabeth Health Services in Baker City, Ore. — to Trinity Health, creating a new regional health care system to be operated by Trinity Health. The ongoing discussions have no effect on current operations. If the health-care firms combine, officials said, all facilities will remain open and it is expected that



most employees will continue in their positions.

Physician Assistant Todd Otstot, right, works along with other medical staff at the emergency room nursing station at Nampa's Mercy Medical Center Wednesday afternoon. Officials announced Wednesday that Catholic Health Initiatives signed a letter of intent to sell Mercy Medical Center to Trinity Health Systems, which owns Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise

Transfer of the Nampa, Ontario and Baker City 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.” During the past several months, board and senior leaders of Mercy Medical Center, Holy Rosary Medical Center, St. Elizabeth’s Health Services and parent firm CHI have explored the potential benefits of formally aligning the three hospitals with another hospital or health system.

Saint Alphonsus officials said the merger will represent a historic day for Idaho and Oregon residents. “It is also an important day for Catholic health care in this region, and nationally. Saint Alphonsus is committed to enhancing the quality of care and breadth of services from the Treasure Valley to the I-84 corridor in eastern Oregon,” Sally Jeffcoat, president and CEO of Saint Alphonsus, said.

State Sen. John McGee, marketing director for Caldwell's West Valley Medical Center, was optimistic about the effect of the potential transaction.

"We've worked with both hospitals, Saint Alphonsus and Mercy, for a long time, and we plan to continue that work together to provide the best health care possible to our community," McGee said.

Messmer said the transaction will have a positive effect on the health of residents in Nampa and surrounding communities.

"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."