



11<sup>th</sup> & Broadway • Quincy, IL  
217-223-8400, ext. 4190



450 E. Sigler Ave. • Memphis, MO  
660-465-8511, ext. 1530

---

June 2, 2014

## **Scotland County Hospital affiliates with Blessing Health System**

At the May 22, 2014, Scotland County Hospital (SCH) Board of Directors meeting, the Board unanimously decided to sign an agreement to affiliate with Blessing Health System (BHS) in Quincy, IL. This affiliation does not change ownership or management of Scotland County Hospital, but does provide access to significant resources.

The affiliation agreement states that the collaboration between the two hospitals shows a commitment to a regional healthcare system by providing an exceptional patient experience from provider services, quality performance of its staff, and costs that are reasonable to the community through shared and similar goals. Additionally, the agreement states that both parties desire to collaborate more formally and intentionally to combine their efforts and expenditures to achieve savings, explore enhancement of clinical programs and services that will improve access to and quality of healthcare provided to their patients, with lower healthcare costs, all while continuing to operate independently.

Marcia Dial, Scotland County Hospital CEO says, "Mr. Billings (President & CEO of Blessing Health System) and I have had a solid professional relationship for over three decades. We believe this trustworthy working relationship provides a strong foundation for this collaboration."

Ms. Dial, along with the Board of Directors, recognizes the importance of being forward thinking; knowing that this only strengthens the position of Scotland County Hospital, as the changing healthcare landscape unfolds. Dial says, "This is a positive move for Scotland County Hospital and a positive move for healthcare in our region. We understand the importance of remaining true to our mission, providing essential healthcare to the communities we serve, as well as remain a strong economic engine for our region. We are going in this direction, by our choice."

SCH Chairman of the Board, Curtis Ebeling says, "This affiliation combines the strengths of both hospitals, which are very compatible due to our shared mission and concern for the quality of healthcare for our patients. This agreement does not change ownership or management of Scotland County Hospital. While each party remains free to pursue individual initiatives, the affiliation agreement provides the necessary structure for the two hospitals to collaborate on programs and services and continue in a positive direction. This opportunity will enable us to grow our relationship with a hospital we have worked successfully with for several years."

Blessing Health System (BHS) is a nationally recognized two-hospital, not-for-profit healthcare organization serving west central Illinois, northeast Missouri and southeast Iowa. In addition to the hospitals (*Blessing Hospital in Quincy and Illini Community Hospital in Pittsfield, IL*), BHS operates a charitable foundation that raises and disburses donations to support the System’s non-profit care and services (*The Blessing Foundation*), a group physician practice with more than 40 employed providers (*Blessing Physician Services*), and a for-profit business marketing healthcare-related products and services to the general public and providers (*Denman Services, Inc.*). Blessing Health System is a member of the BJC Collaborative which is made up of: BJC HealthCare, St. Louis; St. Luke's Health System, Kansas City, Mo.; CoxHealth, Springfield, Mo.; Southern Illinois Healthcare, Carbondale, Ill; and Memorial Health System, Springfield, Ill.

“We are honored that Scotland County Hospital chose Blessing Health System as a mentor in its work to meet and exceed patient expectations in this new era of healthcare delivery,” said B. Bradford Billings, president/chief executive officer, Blessing Health System. “We know the importance of Scotland County Hospital to its community. We want to help it grow by sharing what we have learned and continue to learn every day. Through local affiliations like this one the healthcare system of the entire tri-state area is strengthened.”

#####

