



For Release
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New Council to Advance Collaborative Efforts of Central Ohio Hospitals

Columbus' four healthcare systems are collaborating on a new endeavor to help them collectively address the pertinent and emerging health care needs of central Ohio. Beginning June 2, the Central Ohio Hospital Council (COHC) will officially begin operations, and will serve as the convener, the forum for discourse and the advocate for the area's four healthcare systems: Mount Carmel Health System, Nationwide Children's Hospital, The Ohio State University Medical Center and OhioHealth.

"On any given issue, from quality and patient safety to disaster preparedness, the hospitals in the greater Columbus area share common interests in serving the community. The Central Ohio Hospital Council will allow us to come together as a community of hospitals and develop innovative solutions to those concerns so that we can best meet the health care needs for the citizens of Central Ohio," said David Blom, COHC chairman.

The Hospital Council will work to assist the four hospital systems in meeting the health care needs of the Central Ohio community through increased collaboration and advocacy. The collaborative efforts will focus on issues that impact the delivery of quality health care to Central Ohioans, such as quality improvement initiatives; electronic health information exchange; assuring a safe, adequate and cost-effective blood supply; charity care; emergency preparedness and other public health issues. The Council will also address other projects that will demonstrate the community and economic value of hospitals to the citizens of central Ohio.

Hospitals and healthcare systems in Ohio's other major metropolitan areas have similar collaborative organizations, including the Akron Regional Hospital Association, the Center for Health Affairs (Cleveland), Greater Cincinnati Health Council, Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association, and the Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio (Toledo).

The Council will be led by Jeff Klingler, who comes to the position after 16 years with the Ohio Hospital Association. Klingler served as director of state policy and advocacy for OHA, lobbying members of the Ohio General Assembly and the Strickland Administration on legislation and government-related issues impacting Ohio's 170 community members. He will serve as COHC President and CEO. He graduated in 1991 with a bachelor's degree in Journalism from The Ohio State University.

The COHC offices will be located in Downtown Columbus at 155 East Broad Street, 2nd floor. Beginning June 2, the COHC offices can be reached at (614) 358-2710, (614) 358-2725 (fax) and jeffk@centralohiohospitals.org. The Hospital Council's Website will soon be accessible at www.centralohiohospitals.org.

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