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Good Shepherd Health System Announces Appointment of New Chief Nursing Officer

LONGVIEW—Good Shepherd Health System announced today the appointment of Karen Watts, MSN, RN as the new Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer. She joined the system on Monday, March 23, with 25 years of nursing leadership experience.

“We are pleased to have recruited a CNO with the experience that Ms. Watts brings to the organization,” said Ed Banos, president and chief executive officer. “Her leadership experience in nursing operations will be valuable as we continue to evaluate strategies to enhance and improve the high quality care currently provided to patients.”

Most recently, she served as senior vice president and chief nursing officer of Memorial Health located in Savannah, Georgia, where she was responsible for operational and strategic direction for critical care, emergency, medical-surgical, women’s, children’s, pharmacy, and selected outpatient services. This was in addition to overseeing the delivery of quality patient care for the health system.

Throughout her nursing career, she has served in nursing management roles with critical care, neurosciences, outcomes management and clinical effectiveness. Under her leadership, she has led and designed the quality and patient safety model resulting in national recognition as one of 50 of the safest hospitals in the United States and consecutive awards for top clinical performance for patients with pneumonia and heart failure (2002-2006).

She received a bachelor of science in nursing from Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah, Georgia and a masters of science in nursing from Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia. She is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives, American Organization of Nurse Executives, Sigma Theta Tau National Nursing Honor Society, American Nurses Association, University of South Carolina Beaufort Nursing Advisory Board and the United Way Board of Directors. She was recognized with the Nursing Leadership Excellence Award from Memorial Health in 2007 and the Nurse of the Year Award in 1980.

She will be relocating to Longview.

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