



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 23, 2015**

For more information, contact:

Kelley Sanchez  
(559) 696-8072

[Kelley.sanchez@samc.com](mailto:Kelley.sanchez@samc.com)

Chelsea Harkness  
(559) 360-4395

[CHarkness1@valleychildrens.org](mailto:CHarkness1@valleychildrens.org)

### **Saint Agnes and Dignity Health Expand Partnership with Valley Children's to Serve Women and Children in Central California Network**

Fresno, CA – This month marks the 30<sup>th</sup> year that Valley Children's Healthcare and Saint Agnes Medical Center have partnered together to ensure that mothers and babies born at Saint Agnes have access to high-level neonatal services. In addition, it marks the 20<sup>th</sup> year that Valley Children's and Mercy Medical Center – a Dignity Health Hospital – have partnered to ensure high-level neonatal access in Merced County.

"Our mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of children and the best way to do that is to partner with organizations that share our values and commitment," said Todd Suntrapak, president and CEO of Valley Children's Healthcare.

In April 2015, San Francisco-based Dignity Health and Saint Agnes joined together to create a health care delivery network that will expand access and elevate the level of care available to patients throughout Central California. With a broader vision of supporting the full care continuum (newborns to pediatrics to adults), Dignity Health, Saint Agnes, and Valley Children's are excited to announce that Valley Children's will be joining these efforts.

"We look forward to working alongside Saint Agnes and Dignity Health – and with local physicians – to make it even easier for families to get the care they need and deserve." Suntrapak said.

The three health care leaders are in the process of forming an integrated health care delivery network unlike any other in the region, covering eight medical centers and eight counties from Stockton to Bakersfield. One of the first areas of focus is to build on their decades long partnerships to establish a regional network for comprehensive women and infants services.

"This is a natural fit for Saint Agnes and Dignity Health, given we both have long-standing relationships with Valley Children's and share similar core values," said Nancy Hollingsworth, president and CEO of Saint Agnes Medical Center.

(more)

"By establishing a partnership with Saint Agnes, Valley Children's and their affiliated physicians, we can create a more connected, comprehensive and accessible health care system for the greater community," said Jon Van Boening, senior vice president of operations for Dignity Health Central California, a service area that includes Bakersfield, Merced, Stockton and Calaveras County.

Leading the network development and physician integration effort for Dignity Health is J. Michael Gallagher, Executive Director and Robert Severs MPH, Managing Director. *Gallagher is a former executive Vice President of SAMC and prior to that served as Senior Vice President- Development Dignity HEALTH (CHW.) Robert Severs is the former President CEO of GEMCARE/Managed Care Systems of Bakersfield.*

###