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Decatur Health Systems Renews Commitment to National Patient Safety Initiative

The Decatur Health Systems (DHS) recently announced its participation in the second round of the national Hospital Engagement Network, known as HEN 2.0, according to Jim Ulrich, Interim CEO.

HEN 2.0 is a 12-month comprehensive patient safety initiative conducted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services through its Partnership for Patients program. At the state level, DHS is a part of the Kansas HEN led by the Topeka-based Kansas Healthcare Collaborative (KHC) in partnership with the Kansas Hospital Association, the American Hospital Association, and the Health Research and Educational Trust.

Through the Kansas HEN, DHS works collaboratively with 106 hospitals across the state and 3,700 hospitals across the nation. All are continuing their work in 10 or more core patient safety areas, such as the prevention of falls, infections and adverse drug events.

Hospital leaders and front line staff participate in learning networks and use quality improvement methods and resources to improve care delivery and prevent harm. The initiative involves engagement at all levels of the hospital, as well as patients and families.

Ulrich added that the DHS board, administration, medical staff, and hospital staff are committed to providing quality healthcare services to all the patients and families we serve. Our continued involvement in the Kansas HEN provides us with a network, improvement methods and resources to guide our ongoing efforts to improve our ability to provide high quality healthcare services. Decatur Health Systems had successes and reductions in areas of adverse drug events, catheter associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI), central-line associated blood stream infections (CLABSI), hospital-acquired pressure ulcers (HAPU), surgical site infections, and venous thrombus embolus. In 2016, we are working on reduction of falls and readmissions.

According to a December 1, 2015 report released by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the first four years of the HEN contributed to the saving of approximately 87,000 lives and nearly \$20 billion in health care costs.

DHS, Inc. is a rural health organization comprised of a critical access hospital and a rural family practice clinic. DHS also manages an independent living complex. The organization is committed to providing quality health care to the rural population in the community of Oberlin and the surrounding area of northwest Kansas.

KHC is a provider-led 501(c) 3 organization with a mission to transform health care through patient-centered initiatives that improve quality, safety and value. Founded in 2008 by the Kansas Hospital Association and the Kansas Medical Society, KHC embodies the commitment of two of the state's leading health care provider groups to act as a resource and continuously enhance the quality of care provided to Kansans. For more information about the Kansas Healthcare Collaborative and its initiatives, visit www.khconline.org.