

NEWS



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Bridgeport Hospital appoints William Jennings new President & CEO *Jennings to assume role following retirement of Bob Trefry*

William M. Jennings has been appointed President & Chief Executive Officer of Bridgeport Hospital and Executive Vice President of Yale New Haven Health System, effective October 1, 2010. Jennings will fill the position being vacated by the upcoming retirement of current President & CEO Bob Trefry.

“We are extremely pleased to have found such an exceptional leader to become Bridgeport Hospital’s new President & CEO,” said Ron Noren, Chairman of the Bridgeport Hospital Board of Directors. “While we will certainly miss Bob Trefry and his extraordinary contributions, we are confident that Bill Jennings’ enthusiasm, experience and leadership skills will continue to move Bridgeport Hospital forward in a very challenging healthcare market. We are looking forward to introducing Bill to the entire community over the next few months.”

Jennings, 43, has served since 2007 as President & CEO of SSM St. Mary’s Health Center, a 582-bed hospital in St. Louis, MO, and since 2008 as President of the SSM St. Louis Heart Institute. Under his leadership, St. Mary’s markedly enhanced its physician and patient satisfaction scores, increased its operating margin and was honored as a Solucient Top 100 Hospital.

“Bill Jennings is an impressive and dynamic leader with a clear commitment to improving healthcare in this country,” said Marna Borgstrom, President & CEO of Yale New Haven Health System. “Bill’s experience combined with his reputation for being a visible and collaborative leader will help to advance Bridgeport Hospital and the System. He has a demonstrated record of achievement and has been a catalyst for positive change in each organization that has benefited from his leadership.”

“I feel privileged to join this great organization with its rich history and strong reputation,” said Jennings. “It was clear from my meetings with members of the board, the medical staff and the senior leadership of the Hospital and System that this is an incredible place with a dedicated focus on providing outstanding patient care. I welcome the opportunity to contribute to the future success of Bridgeport Hospital.”

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Prior to his role as President of St. Mary's Health Center, Jennings served as Administrator and Chief Operating Officer and Corporate Vice President of Morton Plant North Bay Hospital in New Port Richey, FL, part of the \$1.5 billion BayCare Health System, from 1999 to 2006. Jennings gained additional experience serving as Chief Operating Officer and Administrator and Interim Chief Executive Officer at Cookeville Regional Medical Center in Cookeville, TN, and as Executive Manager at Norton Health System in Louisville, KY.

"On behalf of the medical staff at Bridgeport Hospital, we are delighted to welcome Bill to the organization," said Robert Folman, MD, president of the medical staff and a member of the Hospital board. "The entire board was impressed by his credentials and his track record of working successfully with physicians and other care providers based upon a foundation of trust and respect. We look forward to working with Bill to continue to enhance Bridgeport Hospital's reputation as an exceptional place to receive exceptional care."

Jennings and his wife, Kristin, have two children, Sarah and Mason. Jennings received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Miami University in Ohio and a master of health administration degree from Ohio State University.

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Bridgeport Hospital is a member of Yale New Haven Health System (YNHHS), the largest and most comprehensive integrated health care delivery system in Connecticut. Yale New Haven Health System is recognized for advanced clinical care, quality, service, cost effectiveness and commitment to improving the health status of the populations it serves. Yale New Haven Health System's service area covers portions of eastern New York, the state of Connecticut and southwestern Rhode Island. Yale New Haven Health System is committed to making the best health care easier to use.