



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 28, 2017

Contact: Karen Warner

269.273.9700

KWarner@trhealth.org

THREE RIVERS HEALTH JOINS WITH TWO AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ORGANIZATIONS IN ADOPTING ST. JOSEPH COUNTY CIVILITY PROCLAMATION

THREE RIVERS, MI – Three Rivers Health has joined the Three Rivers Area Chamber of Commerce and the Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce as well as several county businesses and organizations in adopting the St. Joseph County Statement on Civility.

The creation of the Statement on Civility was a collaborative effort between the Three Rivers Area Chamber of Commerce and the Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce.

By adopting the civility proclamation, Three Rivers Health commits to encouraging, creating, and sustaining an environment that honors the inherent dignity of every member of the community. It further acknowledges that respectful behavior should always be the norm in all forms of communications and in all situations, according to the proclamation.

Christy Trammell, President & CEO, Three Rivers Area Chamber of Commerce, and Cathi Abbs, Executive Director, Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce, were both instrumental in drafting the proclamation.

Trammell stated, “Bill (TRH Chief Executive Officer William Russell) served on our public policy committee when we began exploring ways to improve our surrounding communities. He suggested we should be involved in pursuing a more civil attitude in our community. Our research led us to a Western Michigan professor who had drafted a proclamation inspiring us to create a similar one. We think this is a concept from which our entire county can benefit.”

“I am exceptionally proud that our area Chambers of Commerce, our Three Rivers health system board and the County Commissioners have all shown leadership by proactively adopting this statement of civility and respect. We are glad to be a part of embracing this proclamation,” said Chief Executive Officer William Russell.

Russell continued, “As health care providers, we interact with each other and, most importantly, with our patients and their families. And they may feel afraid, vulnerable, and uncertain. It’s our relationship skills that will determine the quality of the health care experience for everyone from patients to all our staff. We and both Chambers of Commerce hope the proclamation will be adopted by every municipality and other boards countywide at all levels of business and service.”

The St. Joseph County Statement on Civility concludes with a saying attributed to Notre Dame’s Father Theodore Hesburgh: “It’s alright to disagree but not to be disagreeable.”

###