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LifeCenter Northwest Hires New President & CEO

The local organ procurement organization, serving 7.7 million, will have new leadership

Bellevue, WA-- LifeCenter Northwest, the designated organ procurement organization (OPO) for Alaska, Montana, North Idaho and Washington has hired Kevin O'Connor to head the largest geographic donation service area in the United States as its President and CEO. Diana Clark, current CEO, will be retiring after 12 years. O'Connor will assume his role in early January.

O'Connor comes to LifeCenter Northwest from the New England Organ Bank in Massachusetts. There he served as senior vice president overseeing the day-to-day operations of a service area of 11 million people and 37 transplant programs at 12 medical centers. In 2005 and 2006, O'Connor was the co-director of the U.S. Organ Donation and Transplantation Breakthrough Collaborative at the Health Resources and Services Administration.

"He brings extensive clinical experience, a deep understanding of donation and great knowledge of the inner workings of an OPO," said Ernesta Ballard, chairperson of the board at LifeCenter Northwest. "Kevin is a respected and admired leader on the national donation stage and brings with him many experiences in working with a wide scope of stakeholders."

At LifeCenter Northwest, O'Connor will lead a staff of nearly 100 people who are committed to offering every family the opportunity to find hope and comfort in their time of loss through organ and tissue donation. O'Connor's leadership will ensure that LifeCenter Northwest continues to lead the nation in successful organ donation outcomes. He will oversee continued community efforts to provide public education about organ and tissue donation and the importance of first person consent for donation. He will be responsible for maintaining financial health with a budget of nearly \$20 million.

"LifeCenter Northwest is well-known for its pioneering spirit, innovative programs, and track record of clinical excellence," said O'Connor. "Coupled with the highly effective donor designation registries in the region, this provides an exceptionally strong foundation for increasing organ and tissue donation and transplantation for those in need."

LifeCenter Northwest is one of the 58 federally-designated non-profit organ procurement organizations in the United States. With 7.7 million people and 220 hospitals in its service area, it has the largest geographic reach of any OPO in the United States. It is currently a top performer in the nation in organs transplanted. In 2008, LifeCenter Northwest saved the lives of 415 people. In 2009, LifeCenter Northwest has already saved the lives of 279 people through organ recovery and transplantation and recovered tissue from nearly 100 donors. For more information visit www.lcnw.org.

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