

New sponsors appointed to the PSJH Co-Sponsors' Council

Providence St. Joseph Health warmly welcomes three new sponsors to serve our combined ministry. Sister Sharon Becker, CSJ has been appointed to St. Joseph Health Ministry, the public juridic person sponsoring St. Joseph Health; Mark Koenig and Russ Danielson were both appointed to Providence Ministries, the public juridic person sponsoring Providence Health & Services. The three appointees will begin their terms in January 2019, and will become members of the PSJH Co-Sponsors' Council.

The Co-Sponsors' Council (CSC) is comprised of all the members from each legacy system's sponsoring body; specifically, the members of both Providence Ministries and St. Joseph Health Ministry. The sponsors are the formal connection between Providence St. Joseph Health and the Catholic Church, and are responsible for assuring Providence St Joseph Health's Catholic identity and its fidelity to the healing ministry of Jesus.

The CSC and the leadership councils of the founding congregations worked collaboratively through a succession planning process to fill the seats that will be vacated at the end of 2018 by Johnny Cox, Sister Julie Casey, IHM, and Sister Mary Therese Sweeney, CSJ. Together, they engaged in prayerful discernment about the future needs of the sponsor community. Then, the CSC gathered nominations, interviewed nominees who felt called to sponsor service, and recommended nominees to the leadership councils of the Sisters of Providence and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange.

We thank Johnny, Sister Julie and Sister Mary Therese for responding to the call and serving on the CSC during the formative first two years of Providence St. Joseph Health. Their faith-filled and loving service will benefit Providence St. Joseph Health's healing mission for years to come.

We are blessed to have three new members join the Co-Sponsor's Council who are uniquely qualified and gifted to serve.



Mark Koenig is a multi-lingual executive who formerly served as mission leader in Anchorage and Olympia. He led formation programs and international aid outreach programs under what is now Providence St. Joseph Health Global Partnerships. He also served on Providence Ethics Committees, Maryknoll Lay Missionaries Advisory Board and was a founding member of MedSurplus Network.

Mark holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Seattle University and a master's degree in theology from Maryknoll.



Sister Sharon Becker, CSJ, CNM, MSN has been a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange for 49 years. Her life journey led her to provide a variety of health care services for under-served populations in California, Texas and Papua New Guinea. She has also provided spiritual direction educational programs for indigenous women religious in Tanzania and Ghana. She served her congregation as a member of the General Council and as the Assistant General Superior and treasurer. She founded a specialty clinic for pregnant women with psychiatric and addiction disorders. In addition, in 2004, she became active in educating the public about human trafficking and created a safe shelter for women survivors.



Russ Danielson served as chief executive of the Oregon region and was an executive with Providence Health & Services for the last 25 years of his professional career. He served as a board member for the American Red Cross, University of Portland, Transition Projects, Mount Angel Seminary, and served as president for the Oregon Hospital Association.

Please join us in welcoming Mark, Sister Sharon and Russ.

In Love,

Sister Judith Desmarais, SP, Provincial Superior, Sisters of Providence, Mother Joseph Province
Sister Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ, General Superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange
Bill Cox, Chair of the Co-Sponsor's Council
Sister Barbara Schamber, SP, President of Providence Ministries
Eleanor Brewer, Chair of St. Joseph Health Ministry