



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 27, 2009

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Capella Healthcare Taps Michael Wiechart as Chief Operating Officer

NASHVILLE, TN – Capella Healthcare announced today the addition of long-time healthcare executive Michael A. Wiechart, CPA, as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. Expected to start in late-May, Wiechart brings more than 20 years of hospital leadership experience to the 14-hospital company.

“We are very pleased to welcome Mike to the Capella team as our new Chief Operating Officer,” says Dan Slipkovich, Chief Executive Officer of Capella Healthcare. “Today – more than ever – hospitals need seasoned insight to navigate the changing healthcare industry and economic climate. His vast experience in hospital administration and operations will be a great resource for our hospital management teams across the country.”

Wiechart joins Capella from Lifepoint Hospitals, where he served for ten years in multiple operational roles. Most recently, he acted as Senior Vice President of Hospital Management & Operations Resources, responsible for the operations of 24 hospitals.

Prior to Lifepoint, Wiechart worked with Province Healthcare and HCA in various roles. Throughout his tenure at each of these organizations, Wiechart worked closely with Capella founders, Slipkovich, Tom Anderson and Andy Slusser. He is a Certified Public Accountant and holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of Kentucky.

“I look forward to this opportunity to rejoin some of my former colleagues and to contribute to this growing company,” said Wiechart.

“During my tenure in healthcare, I’ve worked in many roles at community hospitals and started in the trenches, which I hope will provide sound operational direction to each Capella hospital.”

Wiechart’s arrival at Capella follows the news that Tom Pemberton, who served as Chief Operating Officer for the past three years, retired effective March 31, 2009.

“As a longtime colleague and trusted friend, I have a great respect for Tom and he will be missed,” said Slipkovich. “Tom was an integral part of our team throughout the past three years, a time of great growth and expansion for the company. We thank him for his important contributions, and we all wish him the best in his retirement.”

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About Capella Healthcare

Based in Franklin, Tenn., Capella Healthcare partners with communities to build strong local healthcare systems that are known for quality patient care. Capella's senior leadership team has more than 200 years of combined experience managing over 200 hospitals. With the financial backing of GTCR Golder Rauner, the company has access to significant resources for the expansion and improvement of its hospitals and the services they provide. Capella operates fourteen hospitals across the nation. For more information, please visit www.capellahealth.com.

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