



## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

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### Southwest Health System Announces New CEO Joe Theine

**Cortez, CO – (June 20, 2023)** – The Southwest Health System (SHS) Board of Directors announces Joseph (Joe) Theine as incoming Chief Executive Officer, effective July 24, 2023. Theine has been actively improving community health in Southwest Colorado for more than a decade.

“We wholeheartedly welcome Joe to our hospital and community,” said SHS Board Chair Shirley Jones, responding on behalf of the entire SHS Board. “During these times of challenges and tough decisions, we know there are also opportunities to preserve quality healthcare services locally.”

Jones added, “We are engaged as a unified board and leadership team to improve on several levels to benefit our community. Along with Joe’s leadership and insights, we aim for renewal of our organizational strength while balancing the community’s need for essential healthcare services.”

Most recently, Theine served as CEO for Animas Surgical Hospital, Durango, CO, for four years. As CEO of physician-owned Animas Surgical Hospital, he led service line growth, improved financial health in part through prudent expense management, and increased community support.

Theine brings compassion for, and an understanding of, local healthcare. He has a special interest in how healthcare providers contribute to economic stability and growth in many sectors of the economy.

“I am excited for the opportunity to lead Southwest Health System,” said Theine, as he prepares to serve SHS as CEO. “This opportunity is a natural culmination of my love of Southwest Colorado, my leadership experiences, and my learnings. My goal is to positively impact the delivery of care in rural communities.” Theine references his experiences as a healthcare administrator, consultant and public health advocate. He is completing a Master of HealthCare Delivery Science program focusing on healthcare transformation at Dartmouth College.



Prior to serving with Animas Surgical Hospital, Theine worked as practice administrator of Four Corners Eye Clinic with offices in Durango, Cortez, Pagosa Springs and Aztec. He has also served as Executive Director of the Durango Network from 2016-2018. Prior to joining Four Corners Eye Clinic, he was the Executive Director for San Juan Basin Public Health Department from 2011-2013 and worked at Mercy Regional Medical Center from 2008-2011. Earlier in his career, Theine worked for GlaxoSmithKline in roles with increasing responsibilities, including supporting leaders in 24 states for a specialty division of the company.

With Theine at the helm, the SHS senior leadership team also includes: Lisa Gates, Chief Nursing Officer; Travis Parker, Chief Human Resource; and Chuck Krupa, Chief Information Officer/Public Information Officer. A Chief Financial Officer search is underway.

Southwest Colorado has been home for Theine and his family for more than 18 years. Originally from the Pacific Northwest, Theine is married to his wife Ann and they have a 16-year-old son.

Theine earned his Bachelor of Science in Physical Education with an Emphasis in Sports Medicine from the University of Puget Sound and his Master's in Business Administration with an Emphasis in Healthcare Management from Regis University. He will earn a Master of Health Care Delivery Science from Dartmouth College this August.

### **About Southwest Health System**

Southwest Health System operates Southwest Memorial Hospital, a critical access hospital, and Southwest Medical Group's six clinics providing primary and specialty care services. SHS provides over 50 service lines to the community. SHS is a private, not-for-profit corporation operating under all guidelines and regulations for non-profits and is also governed by a volunteer board. For more information, visit [www.swhealth.org](http://www.swhealth.org).

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