



## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 16, 2017

**CONTACT:**

Nancy Clarke  
(773) 292-7354 or [nclarke@nahospital.org](mailto:nclarke@nahospital.org)

### **Norwegian American Hospital Welcomes New Chief Operating Officer**

CHICAGO –Norwegian American Hospital is proud to welcome Michelle Blakely, PhD, FACHE, to our leadership team. She will serve as Chief Operating Officer (COO). Dr. Blakely is joining us after serving as Chief Operations Officer of a dual affiliated academic health care system responsible for providing services to veterans in the Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana area.

Dr. Blakely brings over 28 years of experience as a health care administrator to Norwegian American Hospital. She managed an operating budget of approximately \$360 million and 2,300 employees who cared for over 43,000 enrolled patients.

"In addition to her leadership and management skills, Dr. Blakely is committed to our mission and our community service principles," said José R. Sánchez, President and CEO of Norwegian American Hospital. "She will be an important member of our administrative team as she provides insight to help us continue to grow our existing operations."

Throughout her career, Dr. Blakely has served at the local and regional organizational levels, holding various line and staff positions. She has been the executive sponsor/leader for Lean; led all aspects of the Environment of Care (safety, emergency preparedness, equipment management/replacement strategy, supply chain management (for the creation and maintenance of an aesthetically pleasing healing environment); and successfully led managers through the use of employee feedback data to create cultural change, improved employee satisfaction and engagement and patient satisfaction.

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*Norwegian American Hospital (NAH) is an acute care hospital on Chicago's near north side. NAH provides high quality and compassionate health care services by partnering with patients and their families, our employees, physicians, and the communities we serve. For more information about Norwegian American Hospital, visit [www.nahospital.org](http://www.nahospital.org).*