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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Asteria Health Announces the Retirement of CEO, Joel Beiswenger**

The Astera Health Board of Directors announced today that Joel Beiswenger will be retiring from his role as Chief Executive Officer as of July 1, 2026. Beiswenger has had some lingering health issues and will focus on his wellbeing and self-care.

Beiswenger said, "I am honored to have had the privilege over the past years to lead this great organization for the wonderful people and communities in the region. I am so grateful for the Astera Health Team and the outstanding care and support they give every day."

The Board has appointed Kim Aagard, current Chief Financial Officer, to serve as Interim CEO while a search is conducted for the organization's next leader.

Beiswenger has led Astera Health since 1998, first in the CFO role and then as CEO since 2008. Over his career, he led transitions like a partnership with Wadena Medical Center, creating Astera Health from Tri-County Health Care and building a new hospital and cancer center to keep care local for thousands of residents in Wadena, Todd, and Otter Tail counties.

"We are grateful to Joel and his many years of dedicated service to Astera Health and our community, as well as his many accomplishments. We will honor him at a community celebration later this year. The board's priority is searching for the next leader to guide Astera Health through the future demands of rural healthcare and ensuring continued access to high-quality healthcare for our communities," said Jackie Och, Board Chair.

Asteria Health remains focused on delivering excellent care and supporting its staff, patients, and partners during this transition.

#### **ABOUT ASTERA HEALTH**

Asteria Health is a private, not-for-profit health care system based in Wadena, Minnesota. It offers care services such as primary health, surgery, cancer care, diagnostic imaging, obstetrics, orthopedics and rehabilitation. Astera Health operates a hospital and medical clinic in Wadena, and serves the counties of Wadena, Todd and Otter Tail through five satellite clinics in Bertha, Henning, Ottertail, Sebeka and Verndale. Visit [asterahealth.org](http://asterahealth.org).

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**Photo Captions:** Jackie Och, Board Chair of Astera Health

Joel Beiswenger, CEO of Astera Health

Kim Aagard, Interim CEO of Astera Health