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## STEPHANIE ANDERSON NAMED RESPECTING CHOICES DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

La Crosse, Wis. — Over the last year, Respecting Choices (RC) has made a successful program transition from Gundersen Health System and joined C-TAC Innovations, an independent, 501(c)(3) not-for-profit affiliated with the Coalition to Transform Advanced Care (C-TAC).

Respecting Choices is now excited to announce a big leadership transition! Bud Hammes, PhD, founder and co-developer of the national RC program will step down as Executive Director at the end of 2018. Stephanie Anderson, DNP, RN, current Director of Consultation and Education Services, has been named Deputy Executive Director and will transition over the next 14 months into the role of Executive Director. In 2019, Bud will become the Emeritus Executive Director and take a supporting role in RC's future development. Processes are in place to ensure a smooth transition for both staff and partners. Linda Briggs, MSN, MA, RN, the other co-developer of RC, will continue in her current role as Director of Program Development and Research.

Anderson has a long history of leadership in healthcare. As director of palliative care, home care, and hospice for UnityPoint Health St. Luke's in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, she began working with Respecting Choices as a customer in 2007 when co-initiating and leading a Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) program in Iowa that resulted in new legislation and statewide implementation. Anderson joined RC in 2013 as a Senior Faculty Consultant before evolving into her current position. She received her doctorate in nursing practice, health systems administration, in 2017 from the University of Iowa.

"This is a crucial, but exciting moment for the future of Respecting Choices," says Hammes. "It is the perfect time to transition leadership to Stephanie who can assure the future success and sustainability of Respecting Choices and its mission of supporting person-centered healthcare. I cannot imagine anyone more qualified to lead Respecting Choices than Stephanie."

The Respecting Choices program was developed from work in the La Crosse community that expanded to a national program with support from the Gundersen Medical Foundation. To learn more about Respecting Choices and what they do, visit their new website at [www.respectingchoices.org](http://www.respectingchoices.org).

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*For more information, to schedule interviews with representatives of Respecting Choices, or for other media inquiries, please contact Britt Welnetz at 608-473-3770.*