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#### St. Joseph Medical Center to Hire Armed Guards

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. (AP) - The Heartland Regional Medical Center in St. Joseph will hire armed security guards to protect patients and staff against potential violence.

Heartland security leader Derek Konz says there have been several incidents where people have entered the medical center with a gun. He says those situations are especially dangerous in hospitals, where many people are in highly emotional situations.

Heartland's chief brand officer, Tama Wagner, says all but two of the board members voted to approve training for 14 guards.

The St. Joseph News-Press reports the training is scheduled to begin in four or five months. It will be similar to law enforcement training, and the guards will be required to undergo extensive background checks.

Associated Press