

May 5, 2004



Michael F. Neidorff Elected as Chairman of the Board of Centene Corporation; Other Elections and Reappointments Announced

ST. LOUIS--(BUSINESS WIRE)--May 5, 2004--Centene Corporation (NYSE:CNC) announced today that Michael F. Neidorff was elected as Chairman of the Board of Centene Corporation at the Company's Board Meeting held on May 4, 2004. He assumes the seat being vacated by Claire W. Johnson, who has served as Chairman of the Board since 1993, and adds this title to his current one. Robert Ditmore was reappointed as Presiding Director of the Board. Steve Bartlett, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Financial Services Roundtable, was elected as a Class III Director, and Richard P. Wiederhold was reelected as a Class III Director.

Michael F. Neidorff said, "I would like to welcome our newest Board member, Steve Bartlett, who has extensive experience in governmental affairs, public policy and finance. His election, along with the appointment of John Roberts earlier this year, will give us additional business and financial acumen and bring depth and strength to our existing Board as we enter the next phase of our corporate growth. Centene remains committed to a Board of Independent Directors, with only one inside Director."

About Centene Corporation

Centene Corporation provides multi-line managed care programs and related services to individuals receiving benefits under Medicaid, including Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). The Company operates health plans in Indiana, New Jersey, Ohio, Texas and Wisconsin. In addition, the Company contracts with other healthcare organizations to provide specialty services including behavioral health, nurse triage and pharmacy compliance. Information regarding Centene is available via the Internet at www.centene.com.

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