



## **Don't confuse him with that other Michael Collins; Haverhill's hospital hires new CEO**

**By Jason Tait , Staff Writer**  
Eagle-Tribune

HAVERHILL - Meet Michael F. Collins, new chief executive officer of Merrimack Valley Hospital.

No, not Michael F. Collins, the former head of the Caritas Christi Health Care System who left that job two years ago shrouded in mystery.

This Michael F. Collins says he is often confused with the former Caritas boss, who is about the same age, in the same field and even has the same middle initial. That Michael Collins ran the Archdiocese of Boston hospital chain for 10 years before leaving in April 2004. It was reported the Archdiocese forced him out of the job, though a reason was never made public.

The Michael Collins who arrived in Haverhill this week was named Merrimack Valley Hospital's third CEO since Haverhill sold the building in 2000 to Essent Healthcare of Tennessee. The facility had been owned by the city and was called Hale Hospital when built in 1984, but fell into such financial difficulty that Haverhill was forced to sell it.

Collins, 51, of Arlington will start his new job June 4.

He replaces Robert Allen, the chief executive officer for 18 months, who recently left for a job in Utah. In October 2005, Allen replaced Lester Schindel, who took a job running the New England Sinai Hospital and Rehabilitation Center in Stoughton.

Collins has been working in the health care industry for 25 years, most recently as senior director of financial operations at Emerson Hospital in Concord.

The new boss said he will spend his first 60 days on the job evaluating the hospital. He says he plans no immediate changes.

"My goal is to make it a better, more patient-friendly institution and hopefully to expand the scope of specialty services that are now available," he said.

Collins would not reveal his salary.

He has a master of business administration degree from Suffolk University and an undergraduate degree in business from Boston State College.

Hudson Connery, president and CEO of Essent Healthcare, hired Collins.

"Michael brings many years of hospital finance and operations management experience to his new position," Connery said. "We are very fortunate to bring on board his unique understanding of health care in New England and of the trends particular to this part of the country."

Meet Merrimack Valley Hospital's Michael Collins

**Age:** 51

**Family:** Wife, Linda, and three children - ages 26, 24 and 18

**Education:** Master of business administration degree from Suffolk University and an undergraduate degree in business from Boston State College

**Last job:** Senior director of financial operations at Emerson Hospital in Concord