

Straight Talk

A weekly update from management on the issues that matter most



August 17, 2007

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Feedback on “Straight Talk” has been positive, but many of you have asked us to try to keep it to one page. So I’ll try to curb my enthusiasm, not to mention the number of words, and use more bullet points. When appropriate, I will post reference data and graphs on our website (MYNCH.org) for those who want more detail.

As you recall, the NCH Board voted unanimously to have a nurse on the Board and also will be considering having a non-nurse employee on the Board. The Board is looking for recommendations from RN colleagues who can represent the community as well as the caregivers. Qualifications would include tenure and having the respect of co-workers. NCH Board members volunteer their time and talent for approximately six meetings per year and, depending on committee assignments, an additional four to twelve meetings. Attributes of effective Board members include:

- Integrity – in addition to the usual definition, this includes the ability to represent the patients and communities we serve with both short and long term vision.
- Good judgment – bringing concerns to the meeting is important, but just as important is applying one’s knowledge and experience to solving the problem at hand.
- Common sense – A contribution to a solution can be made even if the individual is unfamiliar with the specific topic.
- Knowing when, where and how to share – confidentiality is an important attribute for every Board member.

If there is a nurse colleague you would like to recommend for the Board of Trustees, please inform Mr. Carl Westman, our Board Chair, in writing, c/o Mrs. Beth Martin, NCH Healthcare System, 350 7th Street N, Naples, FL 34102. Also ask your supporters to share their thoughts as to your effectiveness.

And in news around the System, we learned this week that we are the 2nd busiest hip and knee replacement hospital in Florida and the 7th busiest in the U.S. Thanks to all the pre-op, OR, PACU, Ortho floor, Rehab and other teams who have helped these 1,223 patients get moving again.

We continue our open door policy next week with “Around the Clocks.” Please bring your questions and join in the discussion.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Allen S. Weiss".

Allen S. Weiss, MD
President and CEO