

Straight Talk

A weekly update from management on the issues that matter most

March 27, 2008

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Yesterday's annual Board of Trustees Meeting was an historic one.

The Board confirmed the Nominating Committee's recommendations for two new Trustees, who are both active members of the NCH staff, as well as one additional staff member to the Board Quality Committee.

The two new NCH Board members are:

- **Erika Hinson**, an NCH ER nurse since 1989 as well as an active community member, is the nurse member. She was also recognized in 2000 and 2007 by her colleagues with the Crystal Angel award. She was even born at NCH so she may be the first Trustee ever to be born here.
- **Brian Doyle** has been at the North Naples Campus for nearly five years serving most recently as the night engineer. Almost everyone on campus knows Brian who is also a Hodges University student and father.

In addition, the following staff member was named to the Quality Committee:

- **Dianne Garrison** will be joining the Quality Committee chaired by John Morrison. Dianne has been an ICU, trauma, SICU and PACU nurse for many years and with NCH since 1995. Clearly, quality is our number one priority as noted last week in *Straight Talk*. Dianne's input will be very valuable. She is the mother of three.

These three new members to our Board and Board Committees were recruited to ensure that staff views are fully and fairly represented on the highest governing bodies of NCH. The overriding objective of our Board is to reach decisions that are in the best interests of the entire community. As they bring their good judgment, common sense and integrity, as well as their special talents, to the meetings, these Board additions should help enormously in ensuring that this objective is met.

Overall, our Board is composed of 28 members. Each year at the annual meeting in the Spring, new members are nominated as some members leave the Board. In the past, people were on for three-year terms with one renewal. Officers can stay on as long as they remain officers. Carl Westman has been Chairman since 2005. You can find the other members of the Board at www.NCHMD.org under "About Us" and "Officers and Trustees."

Important topics discussed yesterday centered on the changing economic conditions with increased uninsured and under-insured. Board members observed that NCH's balance sheet is our strongest ever, but we must work together to get through these tough times. Our income is down even though we seem so busy. We are also planning on working closer than ever with our physicians in this stressful environment.

I have said in the past, no one is as smart as all of us. Now, more than ever, we have to use everyone's abilities collaboratively to thrive. I remain optimistic we can and will work together.

Respectfully,



Allen S. Weiss, M.D.
President & CEO