

Straight Talk

A weekly update from management on the issues that matter most



March 25, 2010

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

At yesterday's annual NCH Board meeting, we experienced an extraordinary recognition for our Board Chairman and a momentous "*passing of the torch.*"

Carl Westman, Chairman of the Board for the past five years and a board member for the past 18 years, is stepping down and was recognized at the meeting for a record of accomplishment, dedication, and service that will be difficult to surpass.

During Mr. Westman's tenure and leadership, NCH has undergone a metamorphosis from a sole community provider to a major destination for patients. We have achieved statewide and national recognition. More than 90 quality awards from independent rating organizations, such as HealthGrades and Thomson Reuters, along with becoming an economic bellwether for southwest Florida, are all testimony to Mr. Westman's guidance and leadership.

Mr. Westman has been Chairman of the Executive, Professional Capabilities, and Nominating Committees. His nearly two decades of NCH involvement have been marked by an unwavering focus on improving NCH quality. He has embodied the expression, "*truly committed.*" And I know I speak not only for the board but for all of us at NCH when I say how sincerely grateful we are for his service to our cause.

Our new NCH chairman is another extraordinarily dedicated individual, **Joe Perkovich**, President and CEO of the Collier Family Office. Mr. Perkovich, a board member since 1999, was previously First Vice Chairman. **Mariann MacDonald** will succeed Mr. Perkovich as First Vice Chairwoman. Mrs. MacDonald was Vice President at DuPont before starting her own highly successful pharmaceutical company, Endo Pharmaceuticals. **Ambassador Francis Rooney** will become the Second Vice Chairman. He was the seventh Ambassador of the United States to the Holy See since 1984 and is CEO of Rooney Holdings, Inc. an investment and holding company based in Naples. All have strong ties to southwest Florida.

We couldn't have asked for three more competent leaders with extensive legal, financial, organizational, corporate and governance experience, not to mention stellar judgment, common sense, integrity and strong communications skills. We congratulate them all.

We also welcome RN **Amy Jewell** and Clinical Dietician **Karli Sander** as new employee Board members. Mrs. Jewell has literally spent her entire life at NCH—having been born at the downtown campus. She is a graduate of Edison State College and has returned to school pursuing her BSN, while she and her husband, Chris, raise two pre-school toddlers. Mrs. Sander also has extensive involvement with NCH as her husband, Jeff, is an experienced ICU nurse. Mrs. Sander began her career as a dietitian at NCH, having obtained both her bachelors and masters degrees from the University of Florida. She has added greatly to our new Cerner projects and helped develop the charting forms for total parental nutrition.

We also owe great thanks to our Board members whose terms have expired. **Paul Adrianzen, Dianne Garrison, Ellin Goetz, Arnold Lerner, Rabbi James Perman** and **Stephen Schwartz** have all represented our community and our hospital with dedication and distinction.

Great boards, composed of wise and committed community volunteers, help drive robust and effective hospital systems. We are so fortunate at NCH to have such wonderful individuals serving on our board. They, as much as anyone, have helped lead our community to being recognized as the healthiest county in the state of Florida.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Allen".

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

P.S. Feel free to share *Straight Talk* and ask anyone to email me at allen.weiss@nchmd.org to be added.