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The Valley Health System Appoints Board of Governors

The Valley Health System (VHS) appointed its Board of Governors for the upcoming year. The new board merges five previous boards for Centennial Hills, Desert Springs, Spring Valley, Summerlin and Valley hospitals.

The board, which consists of seasoned business professionals, key physician leaders, and experienced hospital executives, provides governance in the areas of hospital operations, regulatory issues, employee matters, resource management, and performance improvement initiatives.

“The collective expertise and insights of our members are invaluable as we focus on our strategic initiatives in the complex and ever-changing world of health care,” said Karla Perez, Vice President, Universal Health Services and Regional Vice President for The Valley Health System. “It is a pleasure and an honor to work with our board.”

“Health care is always local,” said **Tom Warden**, Chairman of the VHS board of governors and senior vice president of Summerlin for The Howard Hughes Corporation. “It may be affected by national policies and regulatory requirements, but our collective goal is to provide the best possible hospital care for the residents and visitors of Southern Nevada.”

The Board of Governor’s executive leadership team also includes vice-chairman **Jerry Schwartz, MD**, whose practice is associated with MDVIP, a concierge medical practice; and secretary/treasurer **Valerie Murzl**, senior vice president of human resources and training for Station Casinos, LLC, one of the country’s largest locals gaming companies with over 12,000 employees.

Further enhancing the board are executive leaders from the public and private sectors, including tourism, global public relations, government affairs, and civic organizations. They include (in alphabetical order): **Hannah Brown**, President Emeritus of the Urban Chamber of Commerce, which advocates for the creation, growth and general welfare of African-American businesses; **Jon Porter**, former United States Senator for Nevada and currently the CEO & President of Porter Gordon Silver Communications, a leading state and federal government affairs firm, working with clients throughout the United States and overseas from Washington D.C., Reno and Las Vegas, NV, and Phoenix, AZ; **Rossi Ralenkotter**, President & CEO of the Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority, responsible for promoting Las Vegas as the world's most desirable destination for leisure and business travel; **Sig Rogich**, President, The Rogich Communications Group, an international advisory group offering counsel in the areas of business development, crisis communications, strategic planning, issues management, media relations, and government affairs; and **Carolyn Yucha, PhD**, Professor and Dean of Schools of Nursing Allied Health Sciences at University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

Eight members of the 25-member board are physicians who play vital leadership roles within The Valley Health System. They include **Flip Homansky, MD**, Regional Chief Quality Officer; **Dan McBride, MD**, Regional Chief Medical Officer; and the chiefs of staff from each hospital: **Golam Choudhry, MD**, general surgeon and Chief of Staff, Desert Springs Hospital; **Michael Gunter, MD**, family medicine physician and Chief of Staff, Summerlin Hospital; **Peter Scully, MD**, pathologist and Chief of Staff, Spring Valley Hospital; **Warren Volker, MD**, OB/GYN physician and Chief of Staff, Centennial Hills Hospital; and **Dost Wattoo, MD**, cardiologist and Chief of Staff, Valley Hospital. **Jerry Schwartz, MD**, is also a practicing physician in addition to his role as vice chairman.

The board is rounded out by the top executives of The Valley Health System and its five hospitals, most with 20 to 30 years of health care experience including **Karla Perez**, Regional Vice President for Universal Health Services; **Kim Forbes-Daniels**, Chief Financial Officer; and **Ann Savin**, Senior System Director of Quality and Patient Safety.

The Chief Executive Officers and Chief Nursing Officers of the five hospitals include: **Lynn Belcher**, Chief Nursing Officer, Summerlin Hospital; **John Coldsmith**, Chief Nursing Officer, Centennial Hills Hospital; **Margaret Covelli, PhD**, Chief Nursing Officer, Spring Valley Hospital; **Leonard Freehof**, CEO and Managing Director, Spring Valley Hospital; **Robert Freymuller**, CEO and Managing Director, Summerlin Hospital; **Sam Kaufman**, CEO and Managing Director, Desert Springs and Valley hospitals; **Elena McNutt**, Chief Nursing Officer, Desert Springs Hospital; **Sajit Pullarkat**, CEO and Managing Director, Centennial Hills Hospital; and **Ernie Stegall**, Chief Nursing Officer, Valley Hospital.



The Valley Health System (VHS) is a network of five acute care hospitals caring for patients throughout Southern Nevada and surrounding communities. Accredited by The Joint Commission, VHS hospitals provide a comprehensive array of medical services including cardiovascular, neurosciences, maternity and women's health, emergency and surgical care, along with specialty programs in stroke, chest pain, pediatrics, orthopedics, diabetes, wound care, surgical weight loss, geropsychiatric services and acute rehabilitation units.

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