

Straight Talk

A weekly update from management on the issues that matter most



September 2, 2010

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

As you may know, a union organizing drive was initiated a number of years ago by some of our nursing colleagues. Some of the disputed matters were submitted to the National Labor Relations Board, and we just received a decision from that Board. We are currently analyzing the decision and our options. At the end of the day, we all remain colleagues with a singular mission to provide exceptional patient care, regardless of whether or not we always share the same point of view.

A summary of this document includes “orders” going forward related to labor relations. We intend to comply with the spirit of this document. We regret any previous unintended actions as our motivation was and continues to be the welfare of our patients, colleagues, physicians, and the community we serve.

Times have changed and so has NCH. Our passion is fully directed to patient quality, financial stability, and people including patients, colleagues and physicians. Growth and sharing our message with the community so that we can continue to serve everyone and receive support are two additional areas of focus.

As I have noted many times in the past, we have state of the art equipment and very comfortable hospitals, but it is the people who work here that together make NCH special. Without everyone working together and placing our patients’ needs above our own personal needs, we could not fulfill our mission.

We value everyone’s contributions and we all need to understand each other’s points of view. Our new *Shared Governance*, which uses everyone’s talents and experience, is a perfect example of a new avenue for communication and empowerment. We need to continue to be smart, innovative, competent and capable as we go forward in these rapidly changing times.

Every challenge creates opportunities. My belief is that we are better now than ever in sharing information, opinions, and even much more collegial when we disagree. Our quality continues to improve and we are more financially stable than we were four years ago in spite of the general deterioration of economic conditions around us.

Finally, let me mention another important opportunity for all 3,400 NCH women and men as well as our community—that of donating blood through the Community Blood Center. The Community Blood Center collects blood for all four Collier County hospitals, ensuring that “*What’s collected here . . . stays here!*” We have always had a generous community and have never had to cancel surgery for lack of blood (although we have had some close calls). Tuesday, September 7 is NCH’s next periodic donor drive date. Please call 239-436-5455 or www.givebloodcbc.org to obtain more information on how to give. Our community depends on it. Thank you.

We are here to care for everyone long term.

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.