

CHA News Release

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Southern California Health System Leader Elected 2020 Board Chair of California Hospital Association

Gary K. Wilde, President & CEO of Community Memorial Health System, Will Lead Hospitals Through Era of Change

SACRAMENTO (January 30, 2020) — Gary K. Wilde, president & CEO of Community Memorial Health System in Ventura County, has been elected 2020 chair of the California Hospital Association’s Board of Trustees.

Wilde joined the community-based, not-for-profit health system in 2004. The organization includes two acute care hospitals — the 242-bed Community Memorial Hospital in Ventura and the 91-bed Ojai Valley Community Hospital — as well as a 66-bed skilled nursing and rehabilitation care center in Ojai, and numerous primary care and outpatient clinics located throughout Ventura County.

In his role as CHA board chair, Wilde will help guide the association in advancing policies that ensure California hospitals can continue to provide vital health care services to their communities.

“I am excited about the opportunity to work with hospital leaders from across our state as we help shape a health care delivery system of the future for California,” Wilde said. “Health care needs to be more affordable – and more accessible — and hospitals must be leaders in these efforts. This renewed commitment to our patients and our communities will drive our efforts this year.”

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CHA President & CEO Carmela Coyle called Wilde an “insightful leader” who steps into the board chair role at an important moment for the health care field.

“California’s health care system is on the cusp of major changes that will ultimately result in more affordable, higher quality care that will be much easier to access for everyone,” Coyle said. “Gary is an astute, thoughtful leader who will help hospitals chart a new path forward as we work to uplift the health and well-being of our patients and the communities we serve.”

Wilde received his bachelor’s degree from Brigham Young University, a master’s in health services administration from Arizona State University School of Business, and a doctorate degree in health administration from Medical University of South Carolina.

Prior to joining Community Memorial Health System, Wilde spent 22 years in top leadership positions with Cottage Health System in Santa Barbara, becoming executive vice president and chief operating officer in 2000. Earlier in his career, Wilde worked for St. Luke’s Hospital in Phoenix and Bristol Myers (Squibb) in Syracuse, N.Y.

Wilde serves on a number of boards within and outside the health care field. He has served as chair of the Hospital Association of Southern California, chair of the Ventura Chamber of Commerce, and chair of Creative Testing Solutions, the largest non-profit blood donor testing laboratory organization in the country.

Other officers elected to the CHA Board of Trustees for 2020 are:

- Chair-Elect Scott Reiner, president & CEO of Adventist Health
- Secretary-Treasurer Sarah Krevans, president & CEO of Sutter Health
- Past Chair Calvin “Cal” Knight, president & CEO of John Muir Health

One of the largest health care trade associations in the nation, CHA represents more than 400 hospitals and health systems in California. The association advocates for patients and hospitals, promotes public health policy, and is hospitals’ voice at the state and federal levels. CHA has offices in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

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