



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Heading: Healdsburg District Hospital to name experienced leader as new CEO

Subheading: Former CEO to retire in Healdsburg

Healdsburg, CA – The North Sonoma County Healthcare District and Healdsburg District Hospital (HDH) have selected a new CEO to succeed outgoing CEO, Joseph Harrington, who is transitioning into retirement having held the position for nearly three years.

James (Jim) Schuessler, a respected and seasoned healthcare administrator, has accepted the role of CEO of Healdsburg District Hospital beginning on May 11. Mr. Schuessler has extensive experience with health care system operations, strategic planning, and physician practice management. On several previous occasions, Mr. Schuessler's expertise has been sought to navigate tumultuous situations for different health care institutions, and his calm manner of leadership helped to regain stability for hospitals in crises. He arrives at HDH in the midst of a global pandemic, as well as a pending partnership with a major health care network, and his skills and expertise will be welcomed and called upon.

For nearly 20 years, he has provided consulting and interim C-suite management services with a successful track record identifying operational inefficiencies, resolving financial challenges and improving patient satisfaction at medical centers in Texas, Arizona, Wyoming and California.

Mr. Schuessler served as interim CEO of Sutter Delta Medical Center in Antioch as well as at Seton Medical Center in Daly City, California. He served as an officer in the United States Army Medical Service Corps, including service in Vietnam, and earned three Bronze Star medals and a Purple Heart.

"We are very excited to bring Jim Schuessler aboard as our CEO. He comes highly recommended by a number of hospitals that he has served in the past. He has an extensive array of experience as a hospital CEO," said James Nantell, Board and selection committee member. "His knowledge and experience will be crucial assets as we continue to consider future opportunities."

The Board has expressed their trust in Mr. Schuessler's abilities specifically in the areas of improved operations, financial planning as well as negotiating the path toward a



merger with St. Joseph's Health Northern California. He is relocating to the area from Fort Worth, Texas.

“We are grateful to Joe Harrington for his leadership and dedication over the last few years. He has successfully implemented new and improved systems, addressed financial problems and rebuilt the morale of our staff. His hard work has repositioned us on the path to financial stability, while inspiring us to achieve excellence in health care. He has led us through two devastating wildfires and now the global pandemic with steadfast leadership and total commitment to the organization. He has undeniably proven his many talents and reinforced the value he has brought to us and to our community. We will miss him, and wish he and his wife Joline a long, healthy and happy retirement here in Healdsburg,” said Board Chair, Erin Gore.

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