



National
Association
of Public
Hospitals
and Health
Systems

1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 950
Washington, DC 20004
202 585 0100 tel / 202 585 0101 fax
www.naph.org

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Contact: Brigette Settles Scott, 202-585-0102

NAPH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHRIS BURCH ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT PLANS *Members of NAPH Board to Begin Search for Successor*

WASHINGTON – Christine Capito Burch, Executive Director for the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (NAPH), announced that she will retire in mid-2010. Burch has served as Executive Director for 20 years.

“Chris Burch has been an advocate and leader for public hospitals and their patients throughout her career,” said Dr. Lisa E. Harris, NAPH Executive Committee Chair and Chief Executive Officer of Wishard Health Services in Indianapolis, IN. “Chris has served NAPH and its members with distinction for 20 years and her leadership of an organization whose sole mission is to build a vibrant health care system which ensures access to all in our society is a testament to her hard work, vision and commitment to the vulnerable populations we serve.”

Burch has agreed to remain in her leadership role until a new successor is named and to assist with the transition. The position is approved by the organization’s Board of Directors. The NAPH Executive Committee will engage in a national search for a successor. “I have the greatest respect for the NAPH membership and the NAPH staff. Our members every day provide care to some of the most vulnerable in our society. They are leaders who work every day under trying circumstances and meet the challenges with skill and compassion,” said Burch.

NAPH President Larry S. Gage praised Burch’s performance as Executive Director. “Chris has demonstrated tremendous dedication and commitment, and has made NAPH a tremendous asset to our members,” said Gage. “Through Chris’ leadership, NAPH has cultivated a strong presence on Capitol Hill, and it is the only national organization representing the interests of public and other safety net hospitals and health systems before Congress and the Administration. She leaves us in a very strong position to build on her many successes.”

Burch has led the association’s efforts since 1990. Prior to her role as NAPH’s Executive Director, Burch was the Washington representative for the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, the nation’s largest public hospital system. Her experience also included over a decade on Capitol Hill including serving as a Legislative Assistant on the U.S. Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Health and Scientific Research. She is very proud of her years of service on the personal and health subcommittee staff of the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy.

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About the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems

NAPH represents America’s most important safety net hospitals and health systems. These facilities provide high-quality health services for all patients, including the uninsured and underinsured, regardless of ability to pay. In addition to functioning as the country’s default national health insurance system, public hospitals provide many essential community-wide services, such as primary care, trauma care, and neonatal intensive care. Public hospitals also train many of America’s doctors, nurses, and other health care providers.