

Bartlett Regional Hospital

3260 Hospital Drive, Juneau, Alaska 99801 • 907-796-8900

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TO: Media Contacts
FROM: Jim Strader
Director of Community Relations &
Marketing

Email: jstrader@bartlettshospital.org

Phone: 907-796-8463

Fax: 907-463-4919

Mobile: 907-321-3516

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bartlett Regional Hospital Board of Directors Concludes Complaint Investigation

August 21, 2013

In May of this year, the Bartlett Regional Hospital Board of Directors requested an investigation after complaints were received regarding hospital leadership. An independent and thorough investigation of the complaints was conducted through the City and Borough of Juneau Department of Law. The Board has now reviewed the investigation results and deliberated carefully about the concerns that were raised by hospital employees and managers. The Board appreciates the sincerity and candor of all involved, and thanks all concerned for their time and effort. We view this as an opportunity to continue to make Bartlett the best community hospital in Alaska.

The Board has instructed the Chief Executive Officer to take active steps to address the issues that were brought forward. In addition, the Board recognizes and has communicated to the Chief Executive Officer the need to better communicate our vision and short term and longer term plans, both financial and operational, throughout the organization as they are developed. We recognize this is difficult in our constantly changing health care environment, but the Board has concluded that there must be significant improvement in communications to our community and to our valued employees.

Earlier this year, the Board passed a budget, approved by the CBJ Assembly, which includes a 15-position reduction to the hospital staff during this fiscal year, out of over 400 full time employees. We understand that this planned reduction in positions has created uncertainty and concerns among managers and employees. The CEO is currently recommending changes to this personnel plan which will limit the reductions to vacancies created by attrition and retirement. This will have budget impacts and will be reviewed at the upcoming Board Finance Committee meeting. The Board believes

strongly that a transparent and clear approach to this issue is needed to reassure all concerned.

Questions were also raised during the investigation about rumors of a sale of our hospital. The Hospital Board wants to emphasize that its vision and intent continues to be that Bartlett Regional Hospital remain a locally-controlled, publicly-owned community hospital serving the needs of all citizens of Juneau and our surrounding communities. Bartlett is, and will remain a CBJ-owned and operated community hospital.

Again, we thank everyone who participated in this review process. We are proud of our hospital and our fine staff, and look forward to continuing to work constructively and in a positive direction as we move forward.

Bartlett Regional Hospital is an Enterprise Fund of the City and Borough of Juneau and provides its community with quality patient-centered care in a sustainable manner.