



**CONTACT:**

Pat Dolce, Public Affairs Specialist  
(O) 239-343-8370 - (C) 239-989 2758

Department Mobile/After Hours:  
239-789-5786

**Lee Health Board of Directors Announces New Governance Structure**  
*Committees established to support health system mission and strategy*

(Fort Myers, Fla. – June 7, 2019) -- The Lee Health Board of Directors today announced its new governance structure establishing committees to assist the Board in its responsibility for oversight of the health system's performance.

The publicly elected Lee Health Board of Directors is responsible for one of the nation's largest public health care systems. Its duties include ensuring the mission and vision of Lee Health are carried out. It does so through policy and goal setting, development of strategy, and oversight of the health system's clinical quality, patient experience and financial performance.

"Much is changing in the delivery of health care both locally and nationally," said Dr. Steve Brown, Chairman of the Lee Health Board of Directors. "The Board recognizes the need to evolve its governance to incorporate the voice and input of our medical staff and community so that the health system continues to meet the health care needs of the community."

Last fall, the Board of Directors commissioned a Governance Task Force to make recommendations to optimize the Board's structure and function. After extensive review and discussion of its oversight functions, the Board voted to create a committee structure to improve information flow and enhance decision-making through direct participation of medical staff members and community representatives. The creation of a committee structure provides the Board members with a greater opportunity for consideration of significant agenda items and further engages physicians and community members in its work. About 90% of public health system boards of directors in the U.S have a committee structure and they are widely considered a best practice.

"Our new governance structure will leverage the unique skills of a diverse set of physicians and community members to advise the Board of Directors in its deliberations," said Dr. Brown. "Moving to this new model is a substantial change that will allow the Board to be more responsive to the changing health care needs of our community as we continue to pursue the improvement of outcomes, reduction of costs and enhancement of the patient experience."

The new structure establishes five committees to serve in an advisory role to the Board of Directors. The committees are Community Health Improvement; Finance; Quality, Safety and Patient Experience; Audit; and Governance. The membership of each committee varies and includes a mix of elected Board members, physicians and members of the community.

The public is notified of committee meetings, which they conduct in accordance with Florida's open meeting law, as are the meetings of the full board of Directors. Members of the public may attend committee meetings. Public comment will be allowed as usual at the full Board meetings.

**About Lee Health**

*Since the opening of the first hospital in 1916, Lee Health has been a health care leader in Southwest Florida, constantly evolving to meet the needs of the community. A non-profit, integrated health care services organization, Lee Health is committed to the well-being of every individual served, focused on healthy living and maintaining good health. Staffed by caring people, inspiring health, services are conveniently located throughout the community in four acute care hospitals, two specialty hospitals, outpatient centers, walk-in medical centers, primary care and specialty physician practices and other services across the continuum of care. Formerly known as Lee Memorial Health System, the organization began its second century of service with a new name in 2016. Learn more at [www.LeeHealth.org](http://www.LeeHealth.org).*