



Huntsville Memorial Hospital

an affiliate of
Memorial Hermann Healthcare System

For Immediate Release

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Huntsville Resident Named Hospital CEO *Sally Nelson chosen to serve as new leader of Huntsville Memorial Hospital*

HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS (Nov. 13, 2007) – Huntsville Memorial Hospital (HMH) announced Tuesday that Sally Nelson, CPA and former Executive Vice President of Texas Children’s Hospital and Integrated Delivery System of Houston, will assume the position of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) on Nov. 26, 2007 after a nationwide search for the hospital’s new leader.



“I am so excited about this opportunity to give back to the Huntsville community,” Nelson said. “The hospital is in a position of real strength right now. It’s doing well financially, and the people are so passionate and dedicated. This is my home; my family is here, and now I have a great opportunity to make a difference in the best way I know how.”

As CEO, Nelson will lead the executive team responsible for the overall fiscal and medical management of Huntsville Memorial. She added that her focus in the first 90 days of service will be to continue rebuilding relationships in the community, with the patients, doctors and with staff. Nelson said she also wants to concentrate on generating a greater awareness of what services the hospital provides and is going to provide in the future.

“Sally was a unanimous choice by everyone,” said Steve Sanders, CEO for Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Hospital who has been serving as interim CEO of HMH. “She brings exceptional leadership and management experience, and her enthusiasm is infectious.”

As Executive Vice President at Texas Children’s Hospital, Nelson served as the Chief Financial Officer and Chief Information Officer, as well as Acting Chief Operations Officer in the absence of a COO position. She worked directly with the President/CEO and board of trustees to ensure financial stability of the nation’s largest children’s hospital. She was also charged with leading the strategic planning and business development efforts, fund management activities, and insurance programs along with many other operational responsibilities.

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Under Nelson's leadership, Texas Children's Hospital established a variety of affiliate organizations aimed at creating quality healthcare opportunities for children across the state and internationally with the Texas Children's Health Plan, the Texas Children's Pediatric Associates, Texas Children's International, Texas Children's Hospital Insurance and Texas Children's Health Centers.

"Sally will be a great addition to the Huntsville Memorial family, and we are confident she brings the skills necessary to direct the hospital's already stellar leadership team in the future growth efforts," said Mike Williams, President and CEO of Community Hospital Corporation.

"Sally shows a keen understanding and awareness of the overall state of the healthcare industry and what it will take for Huntsville Memorial to remain competitive," said Dr. David Prier, Interim President of the HMH Board of Directors. "Sally is very well-respected in the community, and we believe she will be a strong unifying force as the hospital begins implementing an ambitious five-year plan."

Dr. Paul Kenworthy, urologist and Chief of the Medical Staff at HMH, added, "We have seen the hospital begin to develop greater relationships with the physician staff in Huntsville, and we expect Sally's influence will only strengthen these relationships and further engage physicians in the hospital's growth for the benefit of residents in the region."

Since her retirement from Texas Children's Hospital, Nelson has served on the Board of Directors for the Greater Houston Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, where she volunteered full-time assisting evacuees from hurricanes Katrina and Rita. For several months, she coordinated the recovery efforts between the Red Cross and FEMA. She also served on the Board of Directors of the Greater Houston United Way where she was instrumental in starting the Women's Initiative giving program.

Nelson received her degree from Louisiana State University. She is also the recipient of the 2003 "Women on the Move" Award among Texas Executive Women. She was the healthcare nominee for the Texas Hall of Fame by Governor Rick Perry and was given the Houston Women's Chief Information Officer Award in 2002. Nelson is passionate about her participation in the Walker County Master Gardeners. She is also a graduate of the Huntsville Leadership Institute. She resides in Huntsville with her family and has a daughter, Azi, attending Alpha Omega Academy.

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About Huntsville Memorial Hospital

Since 1927, Huntsville Memorial Hospital has provided benevolent and charitable health care services, setting the standard for quality, proficient health care for the residents of Walker County and the surrounding communities. At Huntsville Memorial, we have great people who are passionate about your health. We have outstanding physicians, motivated leadership, and compassionate staff. We are your friends and neighbors – dedicated to excellence in everything we do – right here at home.

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