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Becker's Hospital Review announces 67 critical access hospital CEOs to know, 2023

[Kansas City, Mo.] – Becker's Hospital Review has recognized 67 critical access hospital CEOs to know in 2023. According to the publication, executives on the list successfully led their organizations through the COVID-19 pandemic and are committed to expanding health care access as an important community asset. They are also recognized for their commitment to quality, safety, and innovation and are committed to the ongoing development of their facilities.

NRHA's Rural Hospital CEO Certification Program and the Center for Rural Health Leadership are proud to recognize the CEOs to know affiliated with NRHA's Rural Hospital CEO Certification Program as either a mentor, a current participant, or a graduate.

Mentors

- **Marty Fattig, CEO of Nemaha County Hospital (Auburn, Neb.):** Fattig has more than two decades of experience as CEO of Nemaha County Hospital, where he oversees all operations. Under his leadership, the hospital has been recognized as a CHIME "Most Wired" facility for the past 10 years. In addition to his role at NCH, Fattig also serves on the CyncHealth board of directors and as Nebraska Hospital Association chair. He has previous experience as a director of ancillary services and a consulting medical technologist.
- **Allen Van Driel, CEO of Smith County Memorial Hospital (Smith Center, Kan.):** Van Driel leads Smith County Memorial Hospital, a 25-bed critical access hospital. He has more than 30 years of experience in health care including as CEO and COO for Nebraska-based critical access hospitals. Van Driel has held

leadership positions within the American Hospital Association, Nebraska Hospital Association, and National Rural Health Association.

Current Participants

- **Karen Cheeseman, CEO Mackinac Straits Health System (St. Ignace, Mich.):** Cheeseman has served as CEO of Mackinac Straits Health System, a 15-bed hospital with an emergency medical center and outpatient surgery center, since 2017. She has spent more than 16 years with Mackinac Straits and serves on the Michigan Health and Hospital Association Small and Rural Council.
- **Tom Vasko, CEO of Newman Memorial Hospital (Shattuck, Okla.):** Vasko is responsible for clinical, financial, administrative, and regulatory functions at Newman's 25-bed critical access hospital that specializes in several medical areas, including orthopedics and general surgery. The hospital serves 10 counties and is the largest employer in Ellis County, Okla. After joining the hospital in February 2023, Vasko successfully launched orthopedic and surgery service lines, as well as an outpatient infusion clinic and a women's health line. He is active in policy and advocacy at the state and federal levels for rural health care.

Graduates

- **Natalie Couturiaux Ryder, MSN, RN. Chief Administrative Officer of Ascension Borgess-Lee Hospital (Dowagiac, Mich.):** Couturiaux Ryder is responsible for the development, design, and operational improvement of systems for health care delivery at Ascension Borgess-Lee Hospital. Her role combines the functions of COO and CNO in the rural health care setting, where she aims to maximize the value of care and execute the hospital's strategic plan. During her first 15 months in her current role, she improved patient and employee satisfaction, and she reduced staff turnover within her first year.
- **Dolan Dalpoas, President and CEO of Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital (Lincoln, Ill.):** Dalpoas is the president and CEO of Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital, a 25-bed critical access hospital that serves the Logan County area. Under his leadership, the hospital's clinicians and staff aim to achieve higher-quality patient care, and the facility has been honored for superior clinical, operational, and financial performance. The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health honored Abraham Lincoln Memorial with the Performance Leadership Award 2018, and iVantage Health Analytics named it among the 100 Top Critical Access Hospitals in 2019.

- **Tylie Mills, CEO and Administrator of Pike County Memorial Hospital (Louisiana, Mo.):** Mills became CEO of Pike County Memorial Hospital in August 2018 after serving as its director of nursing. She also is a former emergency department and emergency medical services director. The same month she took the helm at Pike County Memorial, the hospital underwent an unannounced on-site survey from the Joint Commission and received its Gold Seal of Approval for hospital accreditation.

About NRHA's Rural Hospital CEO Certification Program: NRHA's Rural Hospital CEO Certification Program was developed by successful rural hospital CEOs for rural hospital CEOs to help them strengthen their leadership skills and lead their hospital to success. An individual with this certification will immediately be recognized as someone qualified to lead a rural hospital with excellence. NRHA's Rural Hospital Certification Programs are facilitated by the Center for Rural Health Leadership.

To learn more about all available programs, visit www.crhleadership.com.