



American Hospital Association®

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RICK W. MERRILL, TO LEAD AHA'S SECTION FOR MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

WASHINGTON — Rick W. Merrill, president and CEO of Cook Children's Health Care System in Fort Worth, Texas, is the 2013 chair of the American Hospital Association's (AHA) Section for Maternal and Child Health. The governing council is a 15-member body comprised of CEOs and senior executives from the nation's women's and children's health care providers. As chair, Merrill will lead the section's governing council on public policy issues concerning women's and children's health, hospitals serving that patient population and AHA member service strategies.

Merrill has more than 27 years of health care management and leadership experience, serving the past five years at Cook Children's Medical Center. Merrill led the historic expansion of Cook Children's Medical Center, which nearly doubled the size of the campus to respond to the growing need for its services. In addition under Merrill's leadership, Cook Children's began a new era by streamlining its mission and vision into a promise to improve the health of every child in the region through the prevention and treatment of illness, disease and injury.

Prior to joining Cook Children's, Merrill served as the president and CEO at Driscoll Children's Hospital in South Texas for eight years. Before joining Driscoll, he served as Administrator/Chief Operating Officer at Medical City Dallas and as senior executive vice president/Chief Operating Officer at Hillcrest Health System in Waco, Texas.

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Merrill has worked in leadership roles in for-profit, not-for-profit and academic health care facilities.

Merrill actively serves on numerous national, state and community advisory boards; most recently, as chair for the Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council.

A Texas native, Merrill received a Bachelor of Science from Texas Tech University and a Master of Science in health care administration from Trinity University.

Angela L. Scioscia, M.D., Chief Medical Officer, University of California San Diego Medical Center, San Diego, will serve as chair-elect and will assume the role of chair in 2014. Jack Ludmir, M.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pennsylvania Hospital, and Vice Chair and Director, Obstetric Services, University of Pennsylvania Health System, Philadelphia, is the immediate past chair.

Also elected to three-year terms expiring in 2015 on the governing council:

- **Patricia M. DePompei**, RN, MSN, President, University Hospitals Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital and MacDonald Women's Hospital, Cleveland;
- **DeWayne M. Pursley**, M.D., MPH, Chief, Department of Neonatology, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School, Boston;
- **Jim Shmerling**, DHA, FACHE, President and CEO, Children's Hospital of Colorado, Aurora, Colo.;
- **Deborah T. Zimmermann**, DNP, RN, Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President of Patient Care Services, Virginia Commonwealth University Health System: Medical College of Virginia Hospitals, Richmond, Va.

About the Section for Maternal and Child Health

AHA's Section for Maternal and Child Health supports hospital providers of women's and children's health services as they build systems of care to improve the health status of their communities. The Section is guided by a governing council composed of leaders representing some of the country's leading hospitals and maternal and health providers.

Governing council members serve as elected representatives of their member peers. They advise the AHA on member service strategies, public policy issues, advocacy positions, and emerging issues, as well as serve as a channel back to the maternal and child health field.

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About the AHA

The AHA is a not-for-profit association of health care provider organizations and individuals that are committed to the health improvement of their communities. The AHA is the national advocate for its members, which includes more than 5,000 hospitals, health care systems, networks, other providers of care and 42,000 individual members. Founded in 1898, the AHA provides education for health care leaders and is a source of information on health care issues and trends. For more information, visit the AHA Web site at www.aha.org.

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