



City and County of San Francisco  
London N. Breed  
Mayor

## San Francisco Department of Public Health

Grant Colfax, MD  
Director of Health

### **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 1, 2020

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## **DPH Statement on Laguna Honda Hospital CEO Leadership Transition**

*June 1, 2020*

The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) announced today that Maggie Rykowski, MS, RN, will resume her role as the DPH Chief Integrity Officer and Director of the Office of Compliance and Privacy Affairs.

Rykowski's transition follows one year as acting CEO of Laguna Honda Hospital, having guided the 700+ patient public health institution through its critical response to incidents of patient mistreatment as well as Laguna Honda's successful response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Michael Phillips, FACHE, officially steps into the CEO role today following two months of overlap with Rykowski, ensuring a smooth leadership transition and a continued successful management of COVID-19 response.

"On behalf of the leadership and staff of Laguna Honda, I want to thank Maggie Rykowski for her contributions as acting CEO over the past year and for leading the institution's response to patient abuse and privacy violations," said Mayor London N. Breed. "Under her leadership, Laguna Honda took immediate steps to assure patient safety, hold staff accountable, and make changes to improve patient care. Thanks to her efforts and the dedicated work of all Laguna Honda staff, we are on a path to healing and regaining the trust of Laguna Honda residents, their families, and the broader community."

As acting CEO, Rykowski also led Laguna Honda's response to the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis, which began at Laguna Honda with the first known positive case on March 22, 2020. "I want to acknowledge Maggie Rykowski's remarkable leadership, successful institution of universal testing, and development of industry best-practices in the face of COVID-19," noted Dr. Grant Colfax, San Francisco Director of Health. "In partnership with DPH and the CDC, Laguna Honda has instituted a series of policies and protocols to keep residents and staff safe that have now become best practices across the country. Maggie's leadership and the dedicated response of all Laguna Honda staff and residents during this public health crisis should be a point of local pride."



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“We are fortunate to have Michael Phillips assuming the CEO role,” Maggie Rykowski said. “Michael brings a strong track record in hospital operations management and vast experience in acute and post-acute care settings. Michael and I have worked to ensure a seamless shift in leadership, during which I have gotten to know him as a leader and a friend. Laguna Honda is in good hands.”

Michael Phillips is a veteran in healthcare with over twenty years of executive leadership. He has a successful track record of building and leading large organizations and extensive experience in healthcare operations. His background includes management of acute care and long-term acute care hospitals, as well as large, multi-specialty medical groups.

Most recently, Michael served as CEO at Silver Lake Medical Center, a two-hospital system located in downtown Los Angeles and the city of Rosemead in the San Gabriel Valley. Prior to serving at Silver Lake, Michael held executive leadership positions at Kaiser Permanente, PacifiCare Asia Pacific, Kindred Healthcare, and Cedars-Sinai Health Systems.

Michael is a former U.S. Army officer and served on active duty while stationed in Germany. He is a graduate of the University of Southern California, School of Public Administration. He is board certified in healthcare management with the American College of Healthcare Executives.

“First and foremost, I would like to offer my sincere thanks and appreciation to Maggie Rykowski for her tireless commitment, compassion and devotion to Laguna Honda Hospital. Her outstanding contributions have positioned Laguna Honda Hospital for future success. Thanks to Maggie’s work this past year, I begin my tenure at Laguna Honda on a solid foundation.”

“I am also very pleased to be a part of the Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center team. During my transition, I have had the opportunity to work very closely with the management team, particularly in their response to COVID-19. I have been thoroughly impressed by the performance of the entire team.” Michael Phillips said. “This has been reflected in the phenomenal results that have thus far been achieved by LHH in reducing the spread of COVID-19 among our residents and staff. There is still much work to be done, and I am confident that the LHH team remains ready for the challenge.”

“My vision is to continue the great work that is already underway at LHH. This is consistent with the LHH vision of “building healthier lives as the leaders in post-acute care.” During my time here, I have observed tremendous commitment among staff at every level of the



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organization. There is also a great sense of support, cooperation and collaboration among the various disciplines which is essential to the overall success of a large healthcare organization. Moreover, our greatest strength is our great diversity which is reflected in the excellent representation of many cultures and ethnic backgrounds among our staff.”

“My most important priority will center on ensuring the overall safety and well-being of our residents, reason we are all here. Let us all commit to treating our residents as we would treat our own family members and always be advocates for their safety and well-being.”

Download images from this press release [here](#).

### **About the Laguna Honda Hospital**

Laguna Honda is a skilled nursing and rehabilitation center owned and operated by the San Francisco Department of Public Health. Located on a 62-acre campus in the heart of the city, Laguna Honda is one of the largest skilled nursing facilities in the United States, and represents one of the most extensive commitments by any city or county to therapeutic care for seniors and adults with disabilities. It was founded in 1866 to care for one of the first generations of San Franciscans, the Gold Rush pioneers. A century and a half later, it remains a civic icon representing San Francisco’s tradition of service to the underserved.

### **About the San Francisco Department of Public Health**

The mission of the San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) is to protect and promote health and wellbeing for all in San Francisco. DPH strives to achieve its mission through the work of two main divisions –the San Francisco Health Network and the Population Health Division. The San Francisco Health Network is a community of top-rated clinics, hospitals and programs that serves more than 100,000 people annually at sites such as Castro Mission, Chinatown, and Southeast health centers, Zuckerberg San Francisco General and Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center. With a broad community focus, the goal of the Population Health Division is to ensure that San Franciscans have optimal health and wellness at every stage of life. To achieve this, the Division is comprised of branches dedicated to core public health services, such as health protection and promotion, disease and injury prevention, disaster preparedness and response, and environmental health services.

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