



Janet Zeschin

Running for the Board was a decision made after feeling personally and professionally compelled to do so. I am a service-oriented individual and with my healthcare knowledge and experience, I feel I can be a voice for the community, EPH staff and the facility. The EPH Board, its functions and processes/procedures are familiar to me from my previous employment at EPH as the Director of Quality, Patient Safety and Risk Management as well as my experience at other hospitals both critical access and large metropolitan.

I retired in 2020 from EPH after a 46-year professional nursing career that included the USAF Nurse Corp and 20+ years in Hospital and Medical Staff Quality, patient safety, patient experience, risk management, utilization review, infection prevention as well as federal and state accreditation and regulatory compliance. This work included a leadership role working with hospital Boards, administration, medical staff, and hospital staff, as well as the Colorado Hospital Association, Colorado Rural Health Center, regulatory and quality improvement organizations. My experience also includes several years as a Quality and Utilization Review Consultant in hospitals across the country and in Alaska.

My Board experience includes 10+ years on Rotary Boards in 2 different Clubs (past president and secretary Longs Peak, and currently Estes Park Sunrise secretary) as well as hospital Board participations that included but were not limited to hospital and medical staff quality, patient safety, regulatory compliance, and risk management reporting. I am currently serving the Estes Valley Library Friends of the Foundation Board as secretary since 2024. In Board discussions, I am effective by comprehensively summarizing discussions, keeping conversations on track, engaging nonparticipants, and focusing on collaborative dialogues.

The issues facing the PHD include financial stewardship, the possible partnership with UCHHealth and its relationships with the EPH Medical Staff, hospital staff and the community. The current Board should continue its difficult and challenging path to keep finances on the upward trajectory. Through painful decisions, EPH is now in a favorable financial position to tenuously sustain on its own, or partner with a larger organization. The community has historically insisted on an independent community facility, which is

not tenable in today's healthcare environment. The partnership with UCHealth has the potential to provide EPH with additional resources (staff and leadership training, purchasing economies of scale, potential new service lines, etc.), and "lessons learned" from their small, rural facilities. Lastly, relationships need repaired. Monthly Board meetings are open to everyone, and town hall meetings with specific groups can be held to address concerns. Issues identified need addressed transparently, understanding that there are confidential issues in any business. Whether these are covered by healthcare privacy statutes or business contractual clauses, transparent shared information and assurances need to be made with an understanding that decisions are not wholly financial but made in good faith, are fair and for the benefit of all concerned.

The partnership with UCHealth is a wise path for EPH. It became apparent to me when I first worked at EPH that the organization was trying to be all things to all people, which for the size of staff and facility was not a sustainable long-term strategy. Critical access hospitals continue to close every year. There is significant value added for EPH patients, providers and staff in this affiliation from likely additional provider resources and referrals for patients to expanded administrative collaboration and potential staff education and training.