



Stagg elected to chair Holy Cross Hospital board

By Andrew Oxford

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Chris Stagg was elected chair of the Taos Health Systems Board of Directors during its regular monthly meeting June 24.

Stagg, of Taos Ski Valley, replaces Ron Burnham, who did not seek another term.

He assumes the role during a potentially transformative time for Holy Cross Hospital.

Taos Health Systems is preparing a proposal for a countywide tax to support a slew of infrastructure needs. The hospital's management is changing, meanwhile, after several administrators departed in recent months.

Board members elected Karen Matherlee, a health policy expert, to serve as vice-chair. Bruce Coleman, a former software industry executive, was elected treasurer. Stuart Hamilton, an Angel Fire real estate agent, was re-elected secretary.

While Stagg did not officially assume the role of chair until the meeting's conclusion, he helped shape the agenda for its meeting July 22.

A committee of the board presented a report on the nonprofit's contract with a private management company, Quorum Health Resources. The committee, which is comprised of five board members, recommended renewing the contract that is due to expire after April 30, 2016.

Stagg asked the board not to vote on the recommendation until its next meeting, however, suggesting it would be hasty to act immediately.

The contract with Quorum Health Resources has proven controversial with some community members who have suggested the company has provided poor guidance to Taos Health Systems and imposed a profit-driven approach to the nonprofit's administration. The committee's report said, though, that the company's group purchasing discounts are advantageous and its consulting services are essential. The company also recruited and employs the hospital's chief executive and chief financial officers, the report noted. No competitors were found to be superior.

The committee did recommend, however, that the next contract with Quorum Health Resources be thoroughly reviewed and proofread. The current contract, the committee noted, contains "numerous typographical errors, including at least one egregious error."