

Wednesday Readers' Forum
Staff Report
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Does MGH Board Work For Us?

Assuming that Robert Heller, as chairman of our local Marin General Hospital board, was quoted accurately in the Sept. 20 IJ, the community he represents has the right to ask the following:

- Who, in this community of intelligent and civic-minded folks, would serve on a board that has no power to make decisions in the best interest of the organization they represent.
- Have the boards of California Pacific Medical Center and Mills-Peninsula Hospital, also affiliated with Sutter, made similar decisions? I don't think so.
- What is the fiduciary responsibility of a not for profit board to protect the interests of the entity which provides them with a non taxable status.
- Does Mr. Heller's admission of lack of power endanger our hospital's not-for-profit status?
- If the present hospital board cannot protect our hospital's best interest, who can?

This board has consistently turned down offers by concerned members of this community, whose sole interest is ensuring a high quality hospital at MGH, to participate in a civil discussion regarding the issues that remain to ensure as smooth a transition from one entity to another. This transition process is, after all, commonplace in our democracy.

In the absence of a civil and rational discussion, we are headed for a bruising intervention by the legislature and the attorney general.

That is not in the best interest of our hospital, nor does it say much about how its board fulfills its civic duty.

Too bad, it doesn't have to be that way.

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