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WVHA NAMES M. JAMES “JIM” KAUFMAN, PHD, PRESIDENT & CEO

CHARLESTON, WV - The West Virginia Hospital Association (WVHA) Board of Trustees has named James Kaufman, PhD, as the organization’s next President & CEO, effective November 1, 2020.

“We are extremely fortunate to have someone with Jim’s combined depth of experience and enthusiasm to lead WVHA,” stated Albert Wright, chair of the WVHA Board of Trustees and President & CEO, WVU Medicine – WVU Health System. “His understanding of Association membership, along with a solid health policy background, gives him a strong foundation with which to step into this leadership role.”

Kaufman was selected by the WVHA Search Committee which was co-chaired by Wright and Kevin Fowler, WVHA immediate past chair and President & CEO, Cabell Huntington Hospital. “WVHA considered several exceptionally-qualified candidates over the course of the search, and Jim fit the qualifications that our committee had developed at the onset. We are confident he will lead WVHA in an exciting direction,” stated Fowler.

“I am very excited to be joining the team at WVHA and its talented group of leaders and membership,” says Kaufman. “As some of the largest employers in their communities, hospitals and health systems are not only care providers, but also dedicated to improving the public services and economic conditions of the state. It is truly an honor to have been selected, and I look forward to furthering the Association’s mission of supporting its members in achieving a strong, healthy West Virginia.”

Kaufman currently serves as Vice President, Public Policy for the Children’s Hospital Association in Washington, DC. With more than 20 years of leadership, policy and advocacy experience, he has knowledge of a wide range of issues impacting hospitals at the federal, state and local levels.

Kaufman holds a bachelor's degree in political science from McDaniel College, a master's in public health administration from the University of Baltimore, and a PhD from the University of Maryland Graduate School.

The WVHA Board of Trustees expresses its gratitude to the Association's outgoing President & CEO, Joe Letnaunchyn, who is retiring after 14 years at the helm.

"Joe has been an influential voice on healthcare policy and strategy in West Virginia during his tenure at WVHA," said Wright. "He has worked collaboratively and tirelessly in support of the Association's members and the communities and patients we serve."

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The West Virginia Hospital Association (WVHA) is a not-for-profit statewide organization representing 59 hospitals and health systems across the continuum of care. The WVHA was founded in 1925 to serve as the collective voice of the state's hospital community. Today, the mission of the WVHA is to support its members in achieving a strong, healthy West Virginia. Members of the Association envision a strong healthcare system that supports optimizing the health status of West Virginians served by hospitals and improving the economic condition of the state. The values of quality, transparency, integrity, collaboration and innovation guide the actions of the Association so that member hospitals and health systems can provide high-quality, affordable, accessible healthcare for West Virginia families and communities. The Association is proud to be a part of the state's hospital industry, adding value to the health and wellness of West Virginians. In addition to representing hospitals and health systems, the WVHA includes associate member organizations that partner with West Virginia's hospitals.