Mission Heath

Mission Health CEO to Serve on National Committee
Mission Health President and CEO Ronald A. Paulus, MD, has been selected by the American Hospital Association to serve on its Committee on Health Strategy and Innovation. The Committee is charged with finding ways to transform how healthcare is delivered in communities throughout the country. "Recent proposals related to the repeal of the Affordable Care Act have the potential to reduce Mission revenue by hundreds of millions of dollars, placing extraordinary stress on our health system," Dr. Paulus said. "I am honored to be a member of this committee that will work to ensure the future success of Mission Health and healthcare systems nationwide."

Mission Hospital President Among Nation's Top Women Hospital Leaders
Jill Hoggard Green, Ph.D., RN, Chief Operating Officer, Mission Health and President, Mission Hospital, is among the top women hospital leaders in the nation, according to a new ranking by Becker's Hospital Review. The 2016 edition of Becker's list of "130 Women Hospital and Health System Leaders to Know," features Hoggard Green for demonstrating outstanding leadership and management throughout her career, leading initiatives to improve healthcare quality, maintaining exceptional operational and financial performance, and contributing to the well-being of the community.

Mission's Chief Information Officer Recognized by Becker's Hospital Review
Mission Health’s Chief Information Officer Jonathan Brown was recently recognized by Becker’s Hospital Review as a "Top 113 Hospital and Health System CIOs to Know in 2017." Brown has excelled by implementing a shared, yet secure, electronic health record (EHR) across Mission Health's care settings, improving the EHR for caregivers' use, building and implementing useful data analytics, formulating practice management solutions for Mission's physicians and enabling a region-wide data sharing exchange. His work ensures the responsible and ethical use of patients’ health information.

Mission Health Supports 17 Regional Organizations Through Grants
Building upon the $152 million in community benefit that Mission Health provides annually through charity care and other unreimbursed programs, Mission Health's Community Investment Program is now granting $869,000 in cash contributions to 17
agencies across western North Carolina to help residents Be Well, Get Well and Stay Well. The grants address the community’s greatest health needs, which were identified through a collaborative community health assessment process. For 2017, the focus areas are food security, healthy living, behavioral health and substance abuse, and interpersonal violence. Funding will help organizations like the YMCA of Western North Carolina and MANNA FoodBank to expand programs to bring nutritious food and nutrition education to residents throughout the region. Other grant recipients include:

- All Souls Counseling
- Asheville Buncombe Institute of Parity Achievement (ABIPA)
- Bountiful Cities
- CARING for Children
- Children First/Communities in Schools of Buncombe County
- Haywood Street Congregation
- Helpmate
- Homeward Bound of Western North Carolina
- Madison County Health Department
- MemoryCare
- Mountain Child Advocacy Center
- Pisgah Legal Services
- REACH of Macon County
- The Council on Aging
- YWCA of Asheville and Western North Carolina

State

Committee Appointments
House Speaker Tim Moore (R-Cleveland) and Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger (R-Guilford, Rockingham) last week announced committee assignments and chairmanships for North Carolina’s 2017 legislative session. Here are the healthcare committee assignments that were announced:

Senate Health Care Committee:
**Chairs:** Sen. Ralph Hise (R-Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Yancey), Sen. Joyce Krawiec (R-Forsyth, Yadkin) and Sen. Louis Pate (R-Lenoir, Pitt, Wayne)

Gov. Cooper Names DHHS Secretary Nominee
Gov. Roy Cooper has selected Mandy Cohen, MD, as his nominee for the North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services' secretary. Dr. Cohen most recently served at the federal level as chief operating officer and chief of staff at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Her duties there included implementing policies for Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program and the federal health insurance marketplace.

Gov. Cooper's Cabinet Confirmation Process
A new state law (HB 17) approved by the Republican-controlled legislature last month requires that department heads for Gov. Roy Cooper's administration be subject to confirmation by the state Senate. The governor has challenged that law in court and has named "caretaker supervisors" to oversee the work of these departments, such as the Department of Health and Human Services, until a court ruling on the lawsuit or the confirmation hearings are completed. Yet, the governor has named all but two – the Secretary of the Department of Revenue and the Secretary of the Department of Information Technology – of his choices for his state cabinet. The General Assembly will schedule the confirmation hearings of Gov. Cooper's cabinet nominees, likely to take place sometime in May.
Federal

**President Trump Issues Executive Order to Ease Affordable Care Act Regulations**

In his first executive order, President Trump directed government agencies to scale back as many aspects of the Affordable Care Act as possible. The one-page order gives no specifics about which aspects of the law it is targeting, nor does it take away anyone's current healthcare insurance coverage or end any specific programs or initiatives. But its broad language gives federal agencies the ability to change, delay or waive provisions of the law that are deemed too costly for insurers, drug makers, doctors, patients or states.

**Price Provides Peek at Healthcare Agenda During Senate Hearings**

President Trump's nominee for secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Rep. Tom Price, MD, (R-Ga.) took to Capitol Hill last week and this week, facing Senate committees charged with confirming his appointment. At a hearing last week in front of the Senate's Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, Price signaled that key components of the Trump Administration's replacement of the Affordable Care Act may include health savings accounts, high-deductible plans, association health plans and short-term market stability. He also hinted that some provisions of the law, such as 1332 waivers to provide states added flexibility for healthcare innovation, may remain intact. At this week's confirmation hearing in front of the Senate Finance Committee, Rep. Price testified to his commitment to what he calls the "six principles of healthcare": affordability, accessibility, quality, choices, innovation and responsiveness. "We all want a health care system that's affordable, that's accessible to all, of the highest quality, with the greatest number of choices, driven by world-leading innovations and responsive to the needs of the individual patient," he told the committee.