Memorial Staff, Medical Staff, Board of Trustees and Community:

**Introductory Remarks**
Memorial Medical Center is one of the largest of 72 LifePoint Health hospitals across the country and had the pleasure of hosting senior leadership from Nashville on May 18th. They were here to experience first-hand our commitment to patient care and safety and see the opportunity we have to expand quality care across Southern New Mexico. LifePoint visitors included Chairman and CEO, Bill Carpenter; Michael Coggin, EVP and CFO; and Osei Mevs, Chief of Staff. LifePoint Western Region leaders included Robert Klein, President; Brad Owens, COO; Shannon Fiser, CFO; and Tracie Stratton, VP of Nursing and Clinical Operations. Memorial Board members Dr. Prasad Podila, Stuart Ed, Dr. Catherine Kemmer, Eddie Bender, and Brandy Darden joined the group for a lunch meeting. Our management team and the Board thoroughly enjoyed the remarks and support for Memorial that Bill Carpenter and Mike Coggin shared. Bill is ranked among the Top 100 Most Influential Leaders in Healthcare. We are so fortunate to work with such an outstanding company driven by outstanding leaders. LifePoint is genuinely committed to doing the right thing for quality and safety of care for our patients. When you have remarkable leadership like this, it makes us all better.
Hospital Association Honors Harris’ Dedication to Advocacy
Each year, the American Hospital Association (AHA) recognizes the achievements of grassroots leaders with their prestigious Grassroots Champions Award. A hospital leader from each state is chosen for his or her work in the previous year in effectively delivering the hospital message to elected officials. This year, the New Mexico Chapter of the AHA named our CEO John Harris as the 2017 Grassroots Champion stating that “You have earned this special recognition through your dedication to the hospital mission, on both the local and the national level.” The award was presented to John at a special celebratory dinner in Albuquerque in April and in Washington, DC in May.

Ground Breaking Kicks Off $15 Million Cancer Center Expansion
A group of leaders from Memorial and our Cancer Program team formally turned the first shovel of dirt on the expansion of the Cancer Center at a Ground Breaking Ceremony on Tuesday, May 16th. The ceremony celebrated the start of more than $15 million in expansion, renovation and equipment upgrades at our Cancer Center and Ikard Radiation Oncology Center. The project is slated for completion in early 2018.

Memorial Behavioral Health Unit Selected to Pilot Innovative Program
In 2016 New Mexico passed the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Act (AOT) which provides court ordered and monitored behavioral health services in the outpatient setting. Dona Ana County Department of Health and Human Services received grant funding to pilot this program. There are two large facilities in the County with licensed behavioral health beds, however, when it came time for implementation, the County looked to Memorial’s 12-bed Behavioral Health Unit to pilot this program. This month we had the first successful commitment to this program in the State of New Mexico! This is a huge undertaking and will change the landscape of behavioral health care throughout the State. As the program grows it will have an impact on everyone from local police and fire to our own ER. Memorial’s Behavioral Health Unit will be the model for this program statewide in the coming years. I could not be more pleased with the adaptability of our Behavioral Health team, led by Dr. Manuel Mota and Tenika Gonzalez, RN, and their willingness to put forth all of the extra time and effort this required.

Celebrating National Nurses Week and National Hospital Week
May is a month full of national celebrations for healthcare providers. During the second week of May we celebrate National Nurses Week as well as National Hospital Week. I feel that Memorial has one of the finest teams I have ever had the privilege of working with. Everyone on our staff, from housekeeping, purchasing and engineering, through medical techs, hospitalists and administration live our Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles on a daily basis. Our dedicated nurses carry the torch of compassion and safety of care for each and every patient. Many of these staff you never see nor read about, but without each and every one of them, Memorial could not be the great place it has become. I am so proud and grateful for our team, not just one week in May, but every day of the year.

Petra Samaniego Celebrated for 45 Years of Service at Employee Service Awards Gala
Our HR Director, Laura Pierce, and her team put on a wonderful Employee Service Awards event each year during National Hospital Week. During that event we recognize employees with 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of service to Memorial. This year, 215 Employees were celebrated for reaching one of these anniversary years. Amazingly, this year we recognized Petra Samaniego, Surgical Tech, for 45 years of service! Petra actually started working for Memorial when it was Memorial General Hospital located on Alameda. Petra will be retiring at the end of May. We thank her for sharing her talents with us through her entire career and wish her the very best in her retirement. You will be missed, Petra.
Ernest Perez Honored as 2016 Shining Star of the Year

Ernest Perez, RN, is our Nurse Recruiter and has worked at Memorial in various positions for more than 30 years. Ernest was selected as Shining Star of the Month in December 2016 and was selected as our 2016 Shining Star of the Year. His coworkers describe Ernest as “someone with integrity and a passion to work with people. He goes above and beyond more times than we can count, standing out as a resource and a model for all. He treats everyone with dignity and respect regardless of the situation.” Ernest is a shining example of the mission and principles that we live by here at Memorial. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor, Ernest!

Memorial Celebrates Our 2017 Mercy Award Winner

The Mercy Award recognizes one employee from each of LifePoint Health’s (corporate owner of MMC) 72 hospitals who profoundly touches the lives of others and best represents the spirit and values on which the company was founded. The Mercy Award is an annual recognition program established in 2002 to honor the life of Scott Mercy, LifePoint’s founding chairman and chief executive officer. The award is considered the highest honor a LifePoint employee can receive. This year Memorial selected Patrick Leun for “demonstrating compassion and an unwavering commitment to helping others.” Patrick, a Doctor of Pharmacy, is our Manager of Pharmacy Clinical Services and the Program Director of the Pharmacy Residency Program here at our Southern New Mexico Family Medicine Residency. In addition to his many roles at Memorial, Patrick is very active in serving our community. He is Vice Chair of St. Luke’s Health Clinic Board as well as their consultant pharmacist. He also volunteers with Las Cruces Public Schools and the Boy Scouts. He was recognized as Pharmacist of the Year in 2014 by the New Mexico Society of Health-System Pharmacists. He is described by his peers and co-workers as having wisdom, foresight, perseverance, compassion and a sense of humor. We are proud to have Patrick represent Memorial at LifePoint’s Annual Mercy Award Celebration in Nashville this summer.

Memorial Bone+Joint Center Now in Expanded New Office

As of the beginning of May, Memorial Bone+Joint Center is seeing patients in their new office located at 150 Roadrunner Parkway. This convenient new location has allowed for a much bigger space for providers and patients. In July, the Bone+Joint Center will be adding a new Sports Medicine physician, Dr. Eric Sandoval, to their group of providers. We invite you to join the Memorial Bone+Joint Center’s Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony taking place at their new office location on Thursday, June 8th starting at 5:30pm.

Making Communities Healthier...One Clean Hand at a Time

May 5th was World Hand Hygiene Day. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 80 percent of infectious diseases are transmitted by touch. And the simplest, most effective way that we can combat the spread of germs is via the same missive you’ve been most likely hearing your whole life – wash your hands. Clean hands are a great frontline defense against the spread of germs and serious infections. There is perhaps no more important a place to be mindful of clean hands than inside the walls of the hospital. Proper hand hygiene in a healthcare setting should be top of mind for both patients and those visiting their room. Germs that can lead to serious infection can hitch a ride on the most unassuming of visitors, including the doctor and other healthcare workers, family, friends, your minister – really anyone who visits you while you are receiving care. Proper hand hygiene is top of mind as we marked May 5th as World Hand Hygiene Day, and it should be top of mind every other day too as we strive to “Make Communities Healthier”.
A New Patient Safety Milestone!
Our nursing staff recently celebrated a significant new milestone in Patient Care and Safety. As of April, Memorial recorded less than 2 patient falls that resulted in injuries for four months in a row! A hospital is considered exceptional when it achieves less than 1.3 falls/1,000 patients. Patient falls in a hospital, unfortunately, are common due to the fact that patients who are ill or under the effects of medication get out of bed without notifying their nurse or tech. Falls are the leading cause of hospital-acquired injuries and are routinely measured by hospital oversight organizations. With this new achievement, Memorial has done an excellent job on improving quality of care and patient safety in 2017! Congratulations to everyone involved in direct patient care for implementing an effective falls-prevention protocol. Patient safety and quality care are our number one priority.

Memorial Auxiliary Recognizes 21,000 Hours of Service at Annual Meeting
Memorial Medical Center has the largest single-site hospital Auxiliary in the state of New Mexico. 180 Auxiliaries have given over 21,000 hours of service to Memorial to strengthen our role in the community. Auxiliaries assist with patients and their families in the hospital and operate the Gift Shop which funds annual scholarships for NMSU nursing students as well as donations to local charities. Recently, the Auxiliary held its annual meeting, electing new officers Kathy Fusco, President, Sandi Ramey, VP, Nyla Gruver, Secretary and Claude Wescott, Treasurer. We sincerely thank our Auxiliary Director, Lynda Taylor, for her years of exceptional leadership and we offer a huge thanks to the Auxiliaries for their continued dedication to Memorial and the health of our community. We are so fortunate to have what we feel is the BEST Auxiliary in New Mexico!

New Director of Women’s and Children’s Services
Rainbeaux Trujillo DNP, MSN, RN has been promoted as our new the Director of Women’s and Children’s Services which includes Labor & Delivery/the BirthPlace, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), Pediatrics and Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). Rainbeaux has been with Memorial for 14 years, previously as the Clinical Director of our Medical/Surgical Units. Rainbeaux recently earned her Doctorate in Nursing Practice and is a capable and highly respected leader among our nursing staff and leadership team. We look forward to great progress in our Women’s and Children’s services under her guidance. Congratulations, Rainbeaux!

Washburn Appointed to State Advisory Board
Tim Washburn RN, BSN, MBAHM is the Senior Director of Outreach Systems at Memorial and the Manager of Lohman Endoscopy Center. We are pleased to announce that Tim has been appointed to the Advisory Board of the New Mexico Health Information Collaborative. This group is responsible for overseeing the health information collaborative efforts within New Mexico and manages the state sponsored Health Information Exchange. Tim has been in charge of connecting our hospital’s electronic medical record system with providers’ offices to make patient referrals more efficient for the referring doctor and for the patient. Tim has done a tremendous job for Memorial and will be an great asset to this Board.
Dr. Jonathan Owens Appointed President of Medical Staff
We welcome Jonathan Owens, MD in the role of Medical Staff President at Memorial. Dr. Owens is the founding physician at Memorial Ear, Nose & Throat Institute which opened in summer of 2015. He is an exceptional physician and surgeon and has exceeded every goal in making the practice successful in two short years. Patients and peers alike respect his expertise, energy, wisdom and dedication. We couldn’t have a better physician leading our medical staff.

Welcome New Providers
We are happy to announce when new providers join MMC’s medical staff. Please join me in welcoming the following providers who joined us in the past month.
- Christopher Gutierrez, MD – Emergency Medicine, Emergency Room
- Paul Magarelli, MD – Consulting Physician, Memorial Wellness Center
- Angelica Motta, MD – Cardiology, New Mexico Cardiac Care
- Brett Skattum, CRNA – Anesthesia, Somnia Anesthesia Group

In Closing...
We mourn the passing of Neonatologist, Dr. Luis Ayo, on Thursday, May 11, 2017. He suffered from a chronic illness that could not be cured, but spent over 40 years giving the tiniest and sickest of babies a life with their families whenever humanly possible. This was a man solely motivated by the goodness of saving lives, and who literally had no need to accumulate earthly possessions. Every child was special to him. He kept pictures of them in his office and cherished seeing them again when their parents would bring them back to visit him years later. There are thousands of families today who can look into the eyes of their child because of Dr. Ayo and the teams that he trained to work in the NICU’s of this region, including ours at Memorial. The world is not the same without this wonderfully talented man who did so much for others, and for all the right reasons.

Choose to Be Healthy,

John Harris, CEO
Memorial Medical Center