

# Former critic to head PHCD board

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The former chief of the South Sonoma County Medical Group, who was an outspoken critic of the Petaluma Health Care District previous board of directors, was selected as the president of the current board.

Dr. Robert Ostroff, elected to the board on Nov. 4, was selected as the president by a 5-0 vote in the PHCD's meeting on Monday afternoon. Another newly elected board member, Fran Adams, also was nominated, but she said that due to her work commitments, she would not have sufficient time to serve in the role.

After being elected to the board, Ostroff resigned as the SSCMG's president, and from its executive management committee.

Ostroff, Adams and another new board member, Dr. Stephen Steady, were sworn in at Monday's meeting, at Petaluma Valley Hospital's Groverman Hall. Around 25 people attended, including family members of the new board members and employees of PVH.

A fourth new board member, Kathryn Powell, the CEO of the Petaluma Health Center, was sworn in on Dec. 1. She was appointed to replace Dr. David Anderson, who resigned Nov. 5.

The other officer appointments made at Monday's meeting were: Powell, vice president; Steady, secretary; incumbent Josephine Thornton, treasurer; and Adams, member-at-large.

Also at Monday's meeting, Adams and Powell tentatively were chosen to serve on the board's hospital stewardship committee. Appointments

to other committees were not made due to the need for clarification on possible conflicts of interest involving several board members who have past or present relationships with the PHCD, PVH and St. Joseph Health System of Sonoma County

The board will meet again on Dec. 18 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. to receive mandated ethics training. This session will cover conflicts of interest, the Brown Act and fiduciary responsibility.

Board members also scheduled a strategic planning meeting for 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Jan. 24. The meeting will be open to the public, and the location will be announced later. The board members agreed to begin holding their regular meetings twice per month, from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 14.

“They are going to try this schedule in January and February to see how it works out,” said Daymon Doss, executive director of the health care district.

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