

NEWS

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Board appoints Griffith-Collison to head Medical Center

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors today appointed June Griffith-Collison as director of the county's Arrowhead Regional Medical Center.

Mrs. Collison, the medical center's chief operating officer since October 2000, has served as ARMC's interim director since previous director Mark Uffer assumed the duties of County Administrative Officer in March 2004.

"The medical center is one of the county's biggest and most-vital operations, and June has done an excellent job of running it during the past 11 months," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Bill Postmus. "The county and the community are lucky to have someone with her qualifications heading such an important facility."

Mrs. Collison is a native of Guyana who currently resides in Rancho Cucamonga. She is married and has a 17-year-old son.

June came to the United States in the late 1970's to attend Adelphi University in Garden City, Long Island, on a full track scholarship. She received her BS in Banking and Money Management and an MBA in Corporate Investment and Finance while at Adelphi University.

She was among the fastest 400-meter runners and held a world record in the 400 meters in the late 1970's and early 1980's, racing at Madison Square Garden, and was a silver medalist in the 1979 Pan Am games in Puerto Rico on behalf of Guyana. While racing for Guyana in the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, she realized that Southern California was where she wanted to live.

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Mrs. Collison has more than 18 years of healthcare management and finance experience. During her tenure as Chief Financial Officer for St. Luke Medical Center in Pasadena, June was named Woman of the Year for the City of Pasadena in 1994. She also was designated Chief Financial Officer of the Year in 1998 and 1999 for the Tenet Healthcare Corporation.

At ARMC, she actively oversees daily operations of the 373-bed Medical Center, three Family Health Centers and a combined staff of more than 2,500.

"June is one of the most talented people in the healthcare business. Bringing her to San Bernardino County is one of my proudest accomplishments," Mr. Uffer said. "I have no doubt she will continue and expand upon the standard of excellence set at ARMC."

Mrs. Collison is looking forward to continuing her stewardship of ARMC.

"This appointment is a great honor. It has been a challenge coming off the heels of someone as dynamic as Mark Uffer, but I've done a good job as Chief Operating Officer and I am ready to move to the next level," Mrs. Collison said.

"We have many challenges to face. We are facing significant cuts in federal support, which will force us to expand programs, increase bed capacity, identify new business, and find other innovative ways to backfill any losses in funding," she added. "However, we have a great staff, and once you have a good staff you need to provide them with a good example and they will follow. That is something I plan to do."

Mrs. Collison said she plans to continue ARMC's emphasis on superior customer service. "The root of our success is treating patients with dignity and respect," she said.

Arrowhead Regional Medical Center is a state-of-the-art hospital that was opened in March 1999 following more than 20 years of meticulous planning.

A publicly owned hospital serving the residents of San Bernardino County, ARMC is committed to the well-being of its population by providing top-notch healthcare in one of the most modern hospitals in the world and a myriad of community-based wellness and educational programs. This is in keeping with ARMC's mission, which is to provide quality health care to the community, and its vision, which is to improve the health of the community by being a leading provider of health care delivery and education.

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ARMC is the fourth facility to serve as the San Bernardino County hospital, which was founded in 1877. Located in Colton, ARMC is the first facility to serve as the San Bernardino County hospital built outside the San Bernardino city limits.

Designed with patients and hospital staff in mind, ARMC was constructed using the latest in safety technology and medical equipment. The 373-bed, 950,000-square-foot facility is comprised of five main buildings covering 72 acres and is ideally located, just off Interstate 10.

Because of its many unique design features, ARMC can withstand a magnitude 8.3-magnitude earthquake.

The hospital facilities include a behavioral health complex, outpatient care center and burn center – the only major burn unit serving the four counties of San Bernardino, Riverside, Inyo and Mono. ARMC is a teaching hospital, with one of the largest and most successful family medicine residency programs in the United States.

ARMC offers a full range of ancillary and patient services, including advanced critical care, neonatal intensive care, emergency and trauma care and burn care. The hospital has six medical/surgical units. The hospital also features comprehensive rehabilitation services and a freestanding behavioral health facility.

The ARMC Outpatient Care facility offers more than 60 different services, from allergy treatment to urology, and specializes in pediatrics, orthopedics, general and specialty surgery, internal medicine, women's health, rehabilitation services, geriatrics and more.

To meet the needs of residents in remote areas of San Bernardino County, the largest in the United States, the hospital has a telemedicine program allowing off-site clinic patients to receive specialty service consultation without driving to the facility.

Patients can also receive top-notch health care at one of ARMC's three Family Health Centers, conveniently located in the nearby cities of San Bernardino and Fontana. The Family Health Centers offer comprehensive primary medical services, including family medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, pediatrics and geriatric care.

ARMC's Medical Imaging Department features a state-of-the-art digital imaging system, recognized by the Smithsonian Institute for the use of information technology in improving patient care. The Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS) is a filmless radiology system that uses computerized images for all X-rays and MRI exams. ARMC is one of the only hospitals in the United States with the Optifill2 prescription machine, a highly automated system that allows pharmacists more time to counsel patients.

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ARMC's award-winning customer service program assures that patients and visitors alike will always be greeted with a smile. The hospital's customer service program was recognized in February 2001 as the winner of the Press, Ganey Compass Award for patient satisfaction.

The award recognized the hospital as the facility whose patient satisfaction scores showed the most dramatic improvement over the previous two years relative to the other hospitals in the Press, Ganey database. Satisfaction scores from several service categories were analyzed. The award criteria required that the facility improve its mean score rating by two points or more over the previous two years and have one of the three highest scores within the particular service category. During the rating period, ARMC went from the lowest in category (inpatient bed size 150-299) to the highest.