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## LGH's \$100 million investment in electronic record keeping

Most of the Lancaster General Health annual public meeting on November 18 was presentations concerning the various aspects and benefits of the hospital's \$100 million dollar program to create electronic records for approximately 150,000 patients by the year 2015.

The efforts by LGH derives some financial support from the National Recovery Act and is required if in future years LGH is in part to avoid a reduction in percentage of reimbursements from Medicare and Medicaid programs.

One can anticipate the day when all Americans will have lifelong medical records that can be accessed by themselves and authorized care givers via the Internet wherever the patient may be located, thus generating huge efficiencies and avoiding costly and too often fatal oversights and errors by patient and health care workers. For details visit LGH's web site at:

<http://www.lancastergeneralhealth.org/LGH/Health-care-Professionals/Progress-Notes/Epic---e-Health-Update.aspx>

## Excerpts from LGH Chair's remarks with NewsLanc comments

**ALEXANDER HENDERSON III:** Lancaster General's primary mission is to make sure Lancaster General is here to provide first class medical care to the Lancaster community for the next 50 years just like we've been doing for the last century. Lancaster General Hospital serves everyone who comes in our doors whether they have insurance or the ability to pay. Having good health is like living in paradise and many of us don't realize that until too late. LGH's efforts are devoting to matters of life and death and for health. I think it's the most important job in the world...

Lancaster General has a Mission Community Benefits Committee headed by the board vice chair. The committee and the staff continuously evaluate our charitable mission and how we're performing. And that committee includes community representatives, trustees, heads of non-profit organizations, government leaders, physicians, other health care professionals, business people and others. It's not just trustees. [The Benefits Committee] is a spectrum of the community.

**NEWSLANC:** Not quite. Community Representatives and heads of non-profits often are beneficiaries of LGH largess or eager to have a prestigious relationship and some influence. Since it is LGH that selects them, they are types that are likely to be cooperative and compliant.

**AH:** There are far more worthy health related projects than we can possibly fund. And the mission community benefit committee is run like any board level committees. It sets the direction of Lancaster General with help of the Trustees' positions and representatives...

**NEWSLANC:** The issue isn't how LGH divides up its charitable contribution, it is how very little they do contribute, an average of only 4% of their average \$100 million annual surplus (profits.) Without the 2008 one time gift to Southeast Health Service, the average would be less than 2%.

**AH...** Tom Beeman remains a board member and he acts now as strategic advisor. I and the CEO have spent hours with Mr. Beeman on Skype talking

about what's happened at the hospital, at the high level, what's happened in the health care marketplace and health care reform. Mr. Beeman is going to return next year and the compensation is involving a five-year contract which will ensure that. And no, he did not receive \$1.2 million for the year that he is spending opening our traumatically brain injured soldiers, sailors and Marines who have come back from Afghanistan and Iraq. His compensation will probably be about half that level and the overall executive compensation will be about the same...

**NEWSLANC:** It was not clear that Henderson was saying the *Intelligencer Journal New Era* reported incorrectly that LGH intended to pay CEO Beeman the \$1.2 million difference between his normal \$1.3 million and the Navy pay. Also note "*his compensation will probably be about half that level*" which suggests the amount has not yet been arranged and some of the reported \$1.2 may become part of his forthcoming five-year contract. Apparently public outrage at

**apparent cronyism by a Public Charity has had an impact.**

**AH...** It takes a long time to learn about this organization and it takes a long time to learn about the health care system. And it takes a long time to learn about the choices that we have to make every day in order to [understand], and we have a lot of people in this community willing to spend that time and [effort]. And there are other ways of doing and reeling in community involvement, but I'm really very proud of the way that we do it ...

**NEWSLANC:** Here we have the crux of LGH's mentality towards the community: Unless LGH has chosen someone and placed the person on a committee, no one has the knowledge or competence to provide advice or to criticize. LGH has no other obligation for transparency and should deal with the general public at arms' length and with self serving propaganda. More at <http://newslanc.com/2010/11/20/lgh-chairs-address-and-newslanc-comments/>

## **LETTER: Objects to LGH Trustees banning video recording**

While it is true they may NOT be required to allow recording by law – it still should cause concern when that much power and money is operating in a star chamber mentality here in this small pond.

It speaks volumes of their cavalier attitude and sense that they are above and beyond the citizens they impact.

## **Newspapers fail to report on LGH annual meeting**

Newspaper readers interested in what took place at Lancaster General Hospital's sole public board meeting of the year on Thursday's afternoon won't find a single mention in the *Intelligencer Journal* – *New Era* or *The Sunday News*. Nor will they see accounts on the complicitous WGAL-TV or Fox 43.

Apparently writing about the activities of LGH and comments from the public is off base for the monopoly Lancaster Newspapers. LGH belongs to

local institutions that are part of the untouchable class. For the favored few, the Lancaster Newspapers' policy is to '*hear no evil, see no evil, and speak no evil.*'

One has to go back to the failure of the Lancaster Newspapers to report without bias on the Convention Center Project during its development stage to find an equivalent ethical lapse on the part of the local press.

**The above have been excerpted from [NewsLanc.com](http://NewsLanc.com).  
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