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Unit aiding health groups gets new head

By Jane M. Von Bergen
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Next week, Wayne A. Mugrauer, 54, begins his new job as president of the Hospital and Higher Education Facilities Authority of Philadelphia - the group that provides low-interest, long-term, tax-exempt financing to nonprofit hospitals and educational facilities.

And that, Mugrauer said, puts him in the center of the region's economy, with its many hospitals and universities.

"This group has had a huge impact on the growth and development of health care in the last 25 years," said Mugrauer, who has been a business consultant since he left his job as chief executive officer of Friends Hospital in 2004.

"Looking forward," he said, "hospital and health-care systems are going to evolve to yet another level of capacity, and access to capital will be important to that, so this is key to the region, from my perspective."

While at Friends, Mugrauer shepherded the construction, renovation and opening of medical facilities at the psychiatric hospital and the issuance of two series of hospital bonds.

"I'm hoping my experience in operations will help me understand the issues and needs" of institutions, he said yesterday.

As the president of the authority, he also will preside over the Healthcare Resources Foundation, which provides funding and planning support for scientific, health-delivery and educational needs in the region.

A graduate of Temple University who earned his master's degree at Pennsylvania State University, Mugrauer began his career at the Lenape Valley Foundation, a community mental health center, working as chief operating officer. He later became chief operating officer at the Penn Foundation for Mental Health in Sellersville and then vice president of North Penn Hospital.

From there Mugrauer, of Lower Gwynedd Township in Montgomery County, moved to Friends Hospital, rising up through the ranks until he became chief executive officer.

The Hospital and Higher Education Facilities Authority, based in Philadelphia, has issued \$5 billion in bonds and notes since it began in 1974.

Mugrauer replaces Donald A. Cramp, the agency's longtime president. In the three years since Cramp retired, his position was filled on an interim basis by Thomas A. Kline.

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