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LOU LEON GUERRERO ISSUES STATEMENT ON LOSS OF GMH ACCREDITATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 18, 2018

Lou Leon Guerrero, a registered nurse and past member of the GMH Board of Trustees today issued the following statement on GMH's loss of Accreditation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations (JCAHO):

"I am, once again, calling on Governor Eddie Calvo to exercise his Organic Act authority and declare a state of emergency in order to marshal the full resources of our government and our community to place GMH on a solid course to securing JCAHO Accreditation and maintaining CMS certification.

Eight years ago, through unfaltering efforts of a dedicated team of GMH Trustees, medical staff, hospital managers, and rank and file GMH workers, our public hospital finally secured Accreditation after decades of operating without it. It is a sad day for our people to learn the news that all of that hard work has been lost and our island's only public hospital is once again without JCAHO Accreditation.

Let's be clear about what has happened here: GMH Accreditation has been lost for no other reason other than the neglect by all leaders entrusted to keeping it secured from the time this was handed to them eight years ago. Aside from losing this independent assurance of the quality of health care at GMH, the loss of JCAHO Accreditation must also increase everyone's concern about possible loss of certification by the U.S. Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS). The loss of CMS certification would not only hammer concerns about the quality of GMH health care, but would also result in the loss of millions in federal payments that GMH desperately needs and thus would massively compound the hospital's financial problems.

Despite today's deeply disturbing news, I do though, have confidence in the ability of our community to regain that which has been lost due to the lack of leadership and management, cited in the JCAHO report. However, it will require more than comforting words. This plan to secure GMH Accreditation requires decisive leadership, and requires the same collaborative process our community undertook to get GMH accredited eight years ago. What is needed now is more than reassuring statements that everything is under control. What is needed now is leadership. Our people deserve no less.

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EDITORS NOTE: The point of contact for this advisory is Therese Arroyo-Matanane, 482-5486



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