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MARIN COMMUNITY CLINICS

Health agency names new manager

By Richard Halstead
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Linda Tavaszi, who spent much of her career at the center of the controversy over whether Marin General Hospital should be publicly or privately controlled, has been appointed to head the Marin Community Clinics, which supplies health care to the lion's share of Marin's low-income residents.

The appointment comes as the nonprofit Marin Community Clinics assumes new responsibilities: providing maternity care once supplied by the county of Marin and physicians to oversee Medi-Cal beneficiaries that the county is shifting to a managed care organization.

"I am honored to help lead Marin Community Clinics

during this pivotal time in the organization and its critical role in ensuring access to quality health care for the thousands of low-income and uninsured people in Marin County," Tavaszi said in a statement.



Tavaszi

Tavaszi served most recently as senior vice president and executive director of physician services at Marin General Hospital when it was being managed by Sutter Health. Marin General returned to public management by the Marin Healthcare District in July 2010.

Tavaszi also served as

a senior vice president at Marin General from 1982 to 1994 before Sutter Health leased the hospital. For 10 of those 12 years, Marin General was controlled by another private entity, California Health Care.

In May 2004, Tavaszi left a post as chief executive of Kentfield Rehabilitation Hospital to become executive director of physician development, physician outreach and physician contracting for both Marin General Hospital, which by that time was leased by Sutter Health, and Novato Community Hospital, which is also managed by Sutter.

In 1996, Tavaszi ran for the Marin Healthcare District board of directors but lost to two Sutter Health

critics who advocated a return to public control of Marin General.

Tavaszi is no stranger to Marin Community Clinics, having served on its board of directors and as a consultant to the organization. The organization operates health clinics for low-income clients in San Rafael, Novato and Greenbrae.

She succeeds John Shen, who served as the Marin Community Clinics' executive director from 2007 to 2011. Shen has moved to a position as chief of the long-term care division at the California Department of Health Care Services.

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