



MEDICAL IN TOUCH

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Debbie Shumway succeeds Susan Levine to lead Hospice of the Valley

DEBBIE SHUMWAY HAS BEEN CHOSEN to succeed retiring Susan Levine as executive director of Hospice of the Valley.

They both came to the not-for-profit agency 23 years ago, Levine as executive director and Shumway in a succession of leadership roles, most recently senior vice president. A certified public accountant, Shumway has overseen the agency's financial operations, expanding her areas of responsibility over the years to include clinical operations, fund development, volunteers and information services.

"Deb possesses the heart of a servant leader and the brain and guts to go with it," Levine said. "We are extremely lucky to have her ready, willing and way more than able to assume the leadership role."

Shumway's introduction to hospice began as a young adult, when she accompanied her mother who served as a patient

care volunteer for Hospice of the Valley. Shumway's accountancy career led her to join the agency's leadership team. Her grandfather was on hospice care at the time—a synchronicity that made the opportunity meant to be.

"My goals for HOV are to continue to maintain the beautiful mission that has never changed since our origination—to provide comfort and dignity as life nears its end," Shumway said. "At the same time, in this dynamic time in healthcare, we are excited to develop new programs and services to help providers support their patients. We look forward to continued collaboration with our community healthcare partners."

The transition was effective July 1.

Other changes to the senior leadership team include the addition of Rachel Behrendt, who joined the agency in May as senior vice president. A



Debbie Shumway

doctor of nursing practice with extensive leadership and clinical background, Behrendt oversees agency operations.

Ned Stolzberg, MD, who has served the agency since 2007 as a medical director, was promoted to executive medical director. He is board certified in family medicine and hospice and palliative medicine. ❖

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