

## At Steward, silence from the boardroom

Critics say corporate directors of the hospital chain failed to hold executives accountable amid financial ruin



This story was reported by Chris Serres, Elizabeth Koh, and Brendan McCarthy. It was written by Koh and Serres and edited by McCarthy.

When Ralph de la Torre resigned Tuesday from Steward Health Care, many of the nurses and doctors across the national hospital chain rejoiced and called it the start of a new era.

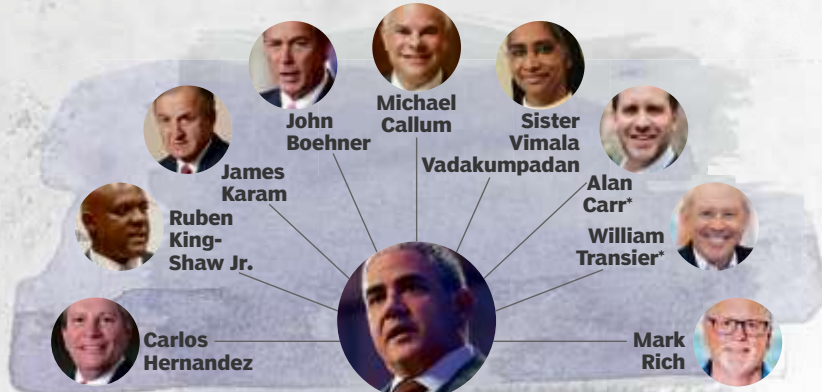
“It was about time,” said RaeAnne Hallahan, a longtime nurse at Holy Family Hospital in Methuen.

But the new Steward may not look all that different from the old one. Steward’s board of directors, in a step experts in corporate governance call highly unusual, eschewed appointing a successor to de la Torre, leaving the teetering health system without even

an interim CEO or chairman. Now, Steward is led by that same board — and many of the same people — that seems to have offered little or no resistance as Steward’s hospitals were starved of resources and de la Torre got rich on massive dividends.

The board includes several top Steward executives and close de la Torre associates, as well as high-profile powerbrokers such as former US House speaker John Boehner and local real estate developer James Karam. Former Trump administration national security

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\* appointed as an independent manager, overseeing the administration of Steward’s bankruptcy proceedings

## Since Oct. 7, a year of ‘crippling’ anguish

By Danny McDonald  
GLOBE STAFF

Aaron Karas was visiting his hometown of Newton for the Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah last October, when his mother told him about the Hamas-led rampage in southern Israel. He initially thought she was overreacting; it sounded implausible to him. But it soon became clear she wasn’t.

“I was in total shock,” said Karas recently, “and I haven’t really come out of it since.”

Karas is among the many New Englanders with connections to Israel whose lives were forever changed on Oct. 7, 2023, when Hamas militants crossed the border from Gaza and went on a killing spree in southern Israel. Those attacks killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took about 250 people hostage, the deadliest attack on Jewish people since the Holocaust. The ensuing retaliatory war conducted by Israel has killed more than 41,000 Palestinians in Gaza and has spread in recent weeks to Lebanon and drawn a violent rebuke from Iran.

Karas, a former Israeli De-

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“Saturday Night Live” calls New York City home, but it’s paid tribute to Boston and the Bay State on quite a few occasions over the course of its 50 seasons. **SundayArts, N1.**

### Fall mix

**Sunday:** Sun and clouds. High: 63-68. Low: 52-57.

**Monday:** Cloudy, showers.

Complete report, **A24.**

Deaths, **A19-23.**

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Sindy Micourt hugged resident Kristen Camacho at the Thrive Support and Advocacy center in Marlborough.

**B**WORCESTER — ending low, elbows resting on the table, Rosmy Dorcelus leaned over a man focused on the notebook in front of him. Dorcelus spelled out the man’s name one letter at a time and waited for him to mimic his actions, carefully watching each pencil stroke.

Few words were exchanged. Dorcelus, who is from Haiti and works as a job coach for a developmental disabilities day pro-

gram in this Central Massachusetts city, doesn’t speak much English. Jose Zabala, wearing glasses and hearing aids, doesn’t speak at all. They communicate in gestures: sign language, fist bumps, thumbs-ups, and high-fives.

When Zabala finally spelled out J-O-S-E, Dorcelus nodded and smiled broadly. “Good job,” he said.

Dorcelus is one of 41 recently arrived migrants hired in the last 10 months by Thrive Support and Advocacy to provide

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