

Careforce Connection

Your Link to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

Lillis, Nicole

Passing the Baton: Lee Named Chief Operating Officer as Kenny Announces Retirement at End of 2012

Carolyn Kenny, Chief Operating Officer for Children's, has a long list of accomplishments on her resume and in her personal life, but for this energetic and passionate executive, her work here at Children's is one that she looks at with special pride.

"I've worked in healthcare for most of my professional life," said Carolyn. "But when I walked through the doors here for the first time and saw the magic that happens every day by our exceptional physicians and staff, I knew this was a special place. Our people are some of the most dedicated professionals that I've worked with in my career. You can see their passion for kids and the way they care about each other and the patients and families we serve."

Since her arrival in 2008, Carolyn has been at the forefront in some of the biggest achievements at Children's in recent years, including the reorganization of our physician practice organization, the launch of our community health record and the implementation of our service line structure.

"Leadership is the hallmark of any organization," said Donna Hyland, CEO. "When I transitioned to my new role as CEO, I took comfort in knowing that we would have Carolyn leading the clinical organization as COO. She has worked tirelessly throughout the last few years and has accomplished so much."

This week, Carolyn announced her decision to retire at the end of 2012. Children's has named Brett Lee, SVP, Clinical Operations, as our next Chief Operating Officer, effective July 1. Carolyn will continue at Children's through the remainder of the year to focus on implementing the Pediatric Center and advancing our physician alignment efforts.

"One of the signs of a great leader is to have the foresight to identify and prepare one's successor, which is why the Executive Team has put so much of an emphasis on succession planning to help us achieve our Vision," said Donna. "When I think about our Children's Values—Care about People, Passionate about Kids and Dedicated to Better—Brett exemplifies those Values. He understands that our wonderful employees are the very strength of our organization and holds dear the sacred trust families place in us to care for their children. Most of all, he is dedicated to a relentless pursuit of excellence in the quality, safety and effectiveness of the care we provide."

In his previous positions at Riley Children's Hospital, Dallas Children's Medical Center and Cook Children's Hospital, Brett earned a reputation as a rising star in pediatric healthcare, and since his arrival at Children's he's already made his mark on our System.

"The focus of all we do needs to be on the patients and families we serve," said Brett. "The gifted people we have at Children's are who makes this such a great place for kids to get care. My focus will be on creating a supportive environment for our physicians and employees to share their tremendous talents and for the children in our community and state to receive the best possible care."

Please join us in thanking Carolyn for the years she's dedicated to Children's and in congratulating Brett on his new role as COO.

