

**Bill M. Welch** has been the President/CEO of the Nevada Hospital Association (NHA), a not-for-profit, statewide, professional association representing the vast majority of Nevada's hospitals throughout the state, since January 1999. Prior to that, he was the President of the Nevada Rural Hospital Project (NRHP), a voluntary consortium of Nevada's twelve rural hospitals. Mr. Welch has been an active advocate for health care when he became the administrator of Elko General Hospital in 1977. He serves on many local, state and national boards and committees. Mr. Welch currently serves on the following committees:

- American Hospital Association Regional Policy Board 9
- National Rural Health Association
- Nevada Homeland Security Commission
- Nevada Division of Insurance Advisory Committee
- Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents Ad Hoc Health Sciences Center Committee
- Nevada Mental Health and Developmental Services Commission
- Coalition for Improving and Expanding Nevada Health Care
- Governor's Commission on Medical Education, Research and Training
- Nevada State Health Division Trauma Task Force
- Joint Advisory Committee on Public Health Preparedness
- Chairman, High Sierra Area Health Education Center
- HealthInsight Nevada Council
- Ex-officio member, Healthcare Financial Management Association Board of Directors, Nevada Chapter
- American Hospital Association's Regional Policy Board 9
- Nevada Executive Healthcare Forum
- Covering Kids & Families Statewide Coalition
- State Hospital Association Executives Forum
- Nevada Academy of Health Steering Committee

Over time, the emergence of major issues such as marketplace health care, restrictive government payment policies, inadequate funding for indigent care, and manpower shortages, among others, have continued to pose formidable challenges to the health care system. The need for collaboration and cooperation among stakeholders, for solid leadership, and for continuous, vigorous advocacy, cannot be overstated. Mr. Welch, as President, furthers NHA's mission to respond to these issues in a timely and appropriate manner.