



Washington State  
Department of Social  
& Health Services

News *Release*  
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SEPTEMBER 23, 2009

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**Doug Porter, Assistant Secretary, Health & Recovery Services Administration, 360-725-1040**

**Heidi Robbins Brown, Deputy Assistant Secretary, HRSA, DSHS, 360-725-1040**

**Richard Kellogg, Director, Mental Health Systems, HRSA, DSHS, 360-725-2088**

**Eastern State Hospital CEO Harold "Hal" Wilson  
to retire from state service, effective October 1, 2009**

**OLYMPIA, Wash.** – Department of Social and Health Services Assistant Secretary Doug Porter announced today (Wednesday, September 23) that he has accepted the resignation of longtime Eastern State Hospital Chief Executive Officer Harold "Hal" Wilson.

Porter said the resignation was effective Oct. 1, and that Wilson was planning to retire.

"I want to thank Hal for his long service to the state, the Department of Social and Health Services, and Eastern State Hospital," Porter said in accepting the letter of resignation.

Porter said Richard Kellogg, Director of Mental Health Systems, has been at the hospital this week, coordinating an investigation into the circumstances of last week's escape by a patient during an outing to the Spokane County Fair.

Porter said Kellogg also will work with Eastern State Hospital Chief Operating Officer Connie Wilmot, who has agreed to become the acting CEO of Eastern State Hospital during the transition. He said would announce the steps in the recruitment of a permanent CEO in the near future.

Wilson, who began his state service as an accountant at Eastern State Hospital, has been with the state for more than 28 years. He was named CEO of the hospital 10 years ago.

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**FOR ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND, CONTACT:**

**Jim Stevenson, Communications Director, HRSA, DSHS, 360-725-1915 (Pager: 360-971-4067).**



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
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September 22, 2009

Susan N. Dreyfus  
Secretary  
Department of Social and Health Services  
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Susan:

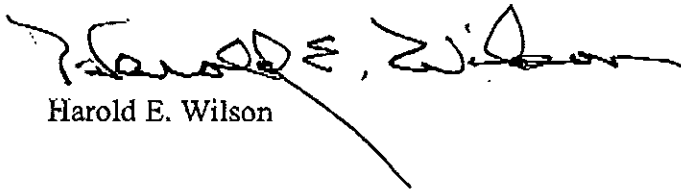
Because of the recent circumstances of a patient escaping from Eastern State Hospital while attending the Spokane County Fair, I think it is best that I resign my position as Chief Executive Officer of the hospital effective at the close of business October 1, 2009 and retire from State Service effective November 1, 2009.

Hopefully, this will move to help signify that a change in leadership at the Hospital is being taken and that new vision and direction can be brought forth to lead the Hospital.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my 28+ years at Eastern State Hospital, with 10 years being spent as the CEO. I have been a strong patient advocate and have seen and made many improvements in patient care and the living environment, all for the betterment of our patients.

Thank you for the confidence in my leadership over the many years and providing me the opportunity to run the Hospital and become an expert in Mental Health Care. I leave with saddened heart and can only hope that we can overcome public sentiment and once again provide the treatment for our patients that they so desperately need. The staff at Eastern have been the greatest and have always given me and their State outstanding service.

Sincerely,



Harold E. Wilson

