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JFL COO to Serve as Interim CEO Amid Search for Permanent Leader

Hazel Philbert, the current COO of JFL, has been appointed as Interim CEO following the departure of Douglas Koch. With over 12 years of healthcare management experience at JFL, Philbert will lead the hospital during this transition

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Hazel Philbert, newly appointed Interim CEO of JFL, brings over 12 years of healthcare management experience to her new role.

The Board of Directors of the V.I. Government Hospitals and Health Facilities Corporation has announced that JFL Chief Operating Officer, Hazel Philbert, will serve as the Interim CEO following the departure of CEO Douglas Koch later this month.

Ms. Philbert, an RN with over 12 years of experience at JFL and a certified professional in healthcare quality, has been with the hospital in various leadership roles, including as COO for the past 3.5 years. She holds a master's degree in health sciences and business administration.

Board Chairman Christopher Finch expressed confidence in Ms. Philbert's leadership, praising her extensive knowledge of hospital operations and dedication to quality improvement. "The board is certain Ms. Philbert will be a positive and steady leader for JFL over the next several months as we search for a new CEO," Finch stated, according to press release issued by the hospital. He also acknowledged the board's sadness over Mr. Koch's departure but supported his decision to relocate.

To find a permanent CEO, the hospital board has engaged the services of Kirby Bates and Associates, with an expected decision by the fall. Mr. Finch thanked all interim CEO candidates, noting the strong internal leadership at JFL.

Ms. Philbert will undergo training with CEO Douglas Koch over the next few weeks. The board appreciates the dedication of the JFL staff and their service to the community, and they look forward to Ms. Philbert's leadership during this transition period.