

March 2011

## Rural Hospital Boards Need Strengthening

Strong governance is essential for small and rural hospitals to confront changing dynamics in finance, reimbursement, quality of care and workforce shortages. We surveyed board chairs and chief executive officers (CEOs) at critical access and prospective payment system hospitals (CAH and PPS, respectively).

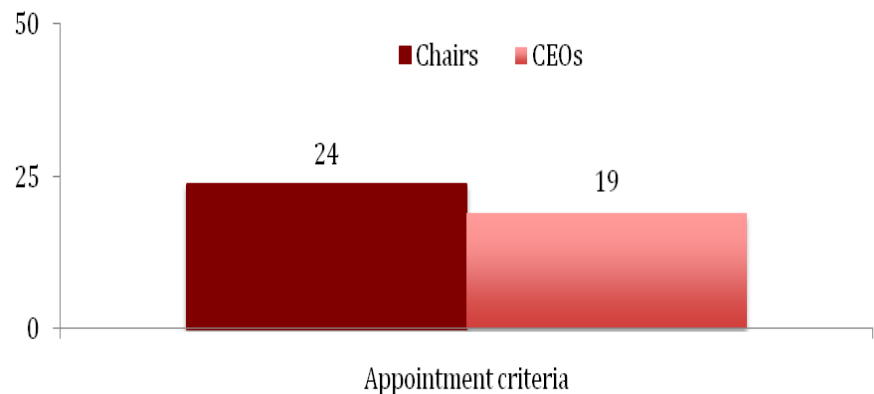
- Respondents said that **Board membership requirements are often undefined.**

- Only a minority of respondents strongly agreed that **board strategic planning is used effectively for hospital operations.**

- Many boards lack quality of care / patient safety committees.

- Top rural board training needs include **strategic planning, board governance responsibilities, third-party reimbursement, and legislative concerns.**

Percent of Board Chairs and CEOs Who Strongly Agreed Board Members Are Selected/Appointed Based on Defined Criteria



A full copy of the report can be obtained from the SC Rural Health Research Center at <http://rhr.sph.sc.edu> or by calling 803-251-6317.

Janice C. Probst, Ph.D., Director  
Amy Brock Martin, Dr. P.H., Deputy Director  
Saundra Glover, Ph.D., Associate Director

[jprobst@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:jprobst@mailbox.sc.edu)  
[brocka@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:brocka@mailbox.sc.edu)  
[sglover@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:sglover@mailbox.sc.edu)



*At the Heart of Health Policy*