

Book: *The Wisdom of Top Health Care CEOs*

Author: Scott B. Ransom, DO, MBA, MPH

Publisher: American College of Physician Executives, 2003, Tampa, FL

Reviewer: Capt Christopher P. Filer, USAF, MSC, MHS
Business Operations & Beneficiary Services
Flight Commander
92d Medical Group
Fairchild Air Force Base, WA

Review

This book is a wonderful compilation of articles from various leaders in healthcare; and it includes dynamic insight from some of our country's top healthcare CEOs, consultants, and recruiters. It is a fabulous collection, and is a definite read, for anyone desiring to improve their leadership skills with the ultimate goal of achieving the level of CEO. The book is divided into four groupings. It is not required to read this book like a novel; rather the reader can pick any of the chapters, in a grouping, and read to their level of satisfaction, while still gathering the utmost from the book. The four groupings are arranged in a logical sequence as follows:

1. Chapters 1-2 are written by consultants who discuss requirements and perspectives necessary of CEOs in today's dynamic field of healthcare.
2. Chapters 3-4 are written by recruiters who share their thoughts and knowledge on the processes of CEO recruiting and placement, and what qualities are often sought when considering a CEO. These chapters are a definite read for those interested in seeking these top level positions.
3. Chapters 5-8 are ideal for those interested in gaining further insight to leading in this evolving and challenging healthcare arena. The focus is mainly on strategy in a changing and/or chaotic environment. The authors are a mixture of consultants and CEOs.
4. Chapters 9-20 are written by CEOs who offer their insight and experience in leading. This is a diverse collection that appears to hit many critical areas. It is written from various internal fields such as government, small hospitals, medical foundations, integrated health systems, as well as large hospitals. There are several articles that charge from the angle of clinical, financial, or marketing roles to CEO; and a perspective on "leading for good."

This book can provide a useful understanding of issues most executives will meet. Preparation and understanding is extremely important to managing the situations effectively. I see no better means than learning vicariously, aside from first hand experience. Dr. Ransom has masterfully selected multiple articles that will definitely aid individuals in their pursuit of reaching the top of the management chain. This book is best read over a period of time with careful reflections on the articles and methods on how to implement in one's own environment. An excellent and thought inducing read!