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Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 BMH's chief financial officer exits amid projected
2 \$14.5M shortfall

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3 Hospital's latest management shake-up comes just weeks
4 after the departure of its CEO

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5 TEXT BODY:

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6 Brattleboro Memorial Hospital is reporting the departure
7 of its chief financial officer just weeks after the exit of its CEO
8 amid a projected \$14.5 million annual budget shortfall.
9 The 500-employee not-for-profit facility — the main
10 health care provider for about 55,000 people in southeastern
11 Vermont — has replaced CFO Laura Bruno with interim leader

12 David Sanville, a former executive at hospitals in Berlin,
13 Randolph, and Windsor, it said in a press release sent after the
14 close of business on Dec. 12.

15 Sanville will be assisted by Patrick Nudo, a national
16 Ovation Healthcare consultant who will serve as senior finance
17 director, the release added.

18 “These decisions were made after careful consideration
19 and reflects our commitment to maintaining the highest standards
20 of leadership and accountability within our organization,” the
21 hospital said in a written statement. “Our focus now is on
22 ensuring a smooth transition and continuing to deliver on our
23 mission without interruption.”

24 Administrators released no other information, and Bruno
25 couldn’t be reached for comment.

26 The 61-bed hospital — one of Brattleboro’s three largest
27 employers — has reported a string of annual losses since 2021
28 and entered a state review hearing this past August with fears of
29 another shortfall.

30 “We recognize we are in a bad financial condition,”
31 Bruno said at the online meeting. “We have some ways to go.”

32 But the hospital nonetheless unveiled a proposed 2026
33 fiscal year budget at the summer hearing that estimated \$121
34 million in spending and a \$244,529 surplus as of next Sept. 30.

35 In response, regulators at Vermont’s Green Mountain
36 Care Board questioned the accuracy of those figures and ordered
37 the hospital to recalculate its budget or risk becoming the first
38 health care facility to receive state intervention under a new law.

39 Soon after, the hospital announced CEO Christopher
40 Dougherty was taking an unexplained leave of absence in
41 October before he exited permanently without comment in
42 November.

43 Earlier this month, a set of acting leaders and several
44 outside advisers sent the state an updated \$130 million budget
45 for the 2026 fiscal year that projected a \$14.5 million operating
46 loss.

47 Past and present administrators have blamed the
48 hospital's fiscal problems on everything from too many unpaid
49 patient bills to their own staff's rising health insurance costs,
50 spurring them to launch a hiring freeze and let go of several
51 managers.

52 The hospital's acting leaders are continuing to review
53 budget numbers as they search for a new CEO and CFO, they
54 said Dec. 12 at a meeting of community members who act as
55 advisory corporators.

56 Regulators have yet to announce whether they'll hold
57 another review hearing but believe the updated \$14.5 million
58 projected loss is "an accurate representation," they recently said
59 in a written statement.

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