Terros Board Announces New President/CEO

Peggy Chase Selected to succeed Dale Rinard in leadership role

Terros Board of Directors Chairman, Hank Radia, Ph.D., recently announced the organization’s 10-member board has voted unanimously to select Peggy Chase as the next President/CEO.

Chase, the organization’s senior vice president of operations and chief financial officer, will succeed Dale Rinard who served as the chief executive at TERROS since 1995 and will retire on October 1.

"Peggy is an excellent strategic thinker and skilled navigator within the behavioral health system. We're confident that she will provide leadership in line with TERROS values and its vision to pursue excellence," Radia said.

Chase brings 25 years of leadership experience in the State of Arizona's behavioral health system, with executive experience in the provider, regional behavioral health authority and independent contracting areas.

"I am honored to be chosen to lead TERROS into the future," Chase said.

"The staff, leadership and board of directors exemplify our motto of 'People Care by Caring People'. I look forward to the opportunity to address the issues we have ahead of us, including moving TERROS into providing integrated physical and behavioral health care services with our dedicated and caring team of staff," she added.

Regarding his successor, Mr. Radia said, "Peggy has grown success in bringing people together for a common cause. She has a strong command of the critical issues, technology processes and experience in managing operational challenges and crises. Her history of maintaining the vision and integrity of the organization make her the ideal choice for the President/CEO position."  

"She is an innovative technology strategist, a gifted financial management executive and a creative problem solver. I am confident in her ability to lead the organization in the evolving healthcare environment," stated Dan Newman, vice chairman of the TERROS Board of Directors.

Chase has been with TERROS since 2004, most recently serving as Senior Vice President of Operations and Chief Financial Officer. In these capacities she oversees financial management, budgeting, claims processing and payments, technology, data solutions and programming, contracts, risk management, clinical business offices, TERROS call center and facilities.

She also oversees operations for CHOICEES, a network of Arizona under an administrative service organization agreement with external organizations including finance management, budgeting, claims processing and payments, technology, data solutions and programming.

By Jeffrey C. Friedman, MHS, LISC

Growing up on his family’s 180-acre spread outside of Covington in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, Richard “Dickie” Sanders, III, recalled his time between sharing with his father the rigorous chores of ranch life and amazing friends and neighbors with the tricks he could do on his BMX bike. Gritty, bright and well-muscled from long days of ranch work, Dickie also struggled with some of the common challenges of young adulthood including a fondness for firearms that landed him in rehab and earned him a slot in the St. Tammany drug court program. Despite his problems, Dickie’s father and step-mother—both physicians—were hopeful that their son would eventually sail into the current waters of adulthood. He was, after all, basically a good kid with essentially healthy values and the support of concerned parents whose professional training and years of medical practice ensured that they had a realistic appreciation of the dangers of drug use.

When the Light Dimmed

Their hopes for a better life for their son dimmed when Dickie came to his parents in an agitated state triggered by what he told them was a single dose of a legally-purchased stimulant concoction called Cloud 9 Bath Salts. Dickie pleaded frantically with his father to protect him from the swarm of police he was convinced were surrounding the family home. Despite his family’s repeated assurances that there were no police about, the young man was unable to shake this delusion. Standing in the kitchen, and before his horrified father could react, Dickie snatched a carving knife and drove the sharp blade across his throat opening a wound that went nearly to ear. His father reacted instantaneously and applied life-saving pressure to his son’s wound before rushing him to the local emergency room where, in a sad irony, his step-mother was one of the physicians on duty. There was great relief for all when doctors realized that, miraculously, the knife had missed all of Dickie’s vital veins and arteries. The wound was stitched up and the young man was brought home under the close supervision of his exhausted father who wrapped a blanket and his arms around his troubled son and lay down with him to a duel effort of comforting Dickie while keeping him safe.

Both were by this time worn out by the ordeal and father and son were soon deep asleep.

The Terrifying Night Continues...

But sometime during that chilly night in November 2010, Dickie awoke. In the frenzy of his terrifying and prolonged psychotic state, the suffering young man shot from his sleeping father’s grip, crept to a room in another part of the house and ended the terror of the Bath Salts trial, and the pain he felt with a .22 caliber bullet and shot through the roof of his mouth. As dawn was breaking over the lowlands just north of Lake Pontchartrain, Dr. Sanders awoke to the realization that Dickie was no longer asleep beside him. Groggily, he searched the house only to be shocked into wakefulness by the sight of his son lying on the floor of an adjoining room, bleeding from the mouth and with a long-forgotten so-called "youth rifle" clutched in his still hands. Dickie’s father and stepmother exhausted themselves taking frantic turns performing CPR on their young son before, in the most heartbreaking act of his medical career, Dr. Richard Sanders pronounced his own son dead. Among Dickie’s last words to his parents were, “This is not a bad thing, this is schizophrenia.”

Dickie Sanders’ death is just one of scores of fatalities in the United States and Europe attributed to an emerging and highly dangerous recreational stimulant tagged with the improbable name “Bath Salts.” Not intended for any bathtub and still legal in many states, the concoction is sold in smoke shops, convenience stores and over the Internet under a variety of names, including Ivory Wave and Vanilla Sky. The fact that there were over 200 calls to state poison control centers across the U.S. in 2010 is grim testimony to the drug’s toxicity. And the use of Bath Salts is gaining a perverse popularity in all parts of the country. The tally for calls to state poison control centers linked to the toxic effects of Bath Salts is over 2700 for the first six months of 2011.

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not yet understand why a Bath Salts trip can go so suddenly and horribly bad or what kind of psychological conditions or personality traits might put one at risk for a bad and potentially deadly Bath Salts experience.

“When Bath Salts turn on the user, it produces agitation, psychosis and suicidal thoughts. And the suffering can go on for days.”

The effects that mephedrone/MDPV can produce in the central nervous system present yet another set of dangers, including a racing heart beat and an often dramatic spike in blood pressure that can increase users’ risk for heart attack and stroke.

Because Bath Salts still can be legally purchased in most states and over the Internet, many users and even some parents of users discount the dangers of the mephedrone/MDPV cocktail. Astonishingly, some parents seem even resigned to the fact that their kids are using the stuff — with almost a sense of relief that their children are not into some so-called “harder” drug.

But those who have expertise in the field of substance abuse have a radically different perspective on Bath Salts. Bernadene Says, a therapist at Cottonwood Tucson recently commented, “In my twenty-year career as a drug and alcohol counselor, I have never seen a drug that scares me more than Bath Salts.”

When asked if she had anything to say to the parents of Bath Salts users she was pensive for a moment before adding, “If your kid is using this stuff and you’re not worried, I know a couple of doctors in Covington, Louisiana who have an empty bedroom and a story you ought to hear.”

UN says Amphetamine-Type Stimulants Second Most Commonly Abused Drugs

Amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) such as Ecstasy and methamphetamines are second only to marijuana as the top drugs of abuse worldwide, according to a United Nations report. The 2011 Global ATS Assessment states that the number of methamphetamine pills seized in southeast Asia jumped from 32 million in 2008, to 133 million in 2010.

Police seizure of heroin, cocaine and marijuana held steady between 2005 and 2009, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which released the report.

“The ATS market has evolved from a cottage-type industry typified by small-scale manufacturing operations to more of a cocaine or heroin-type market with a higher level of integration and organized crime groups involved throughout the production and supply chain,” UNODC Executive Director Yury Fedotov said in a news release.

The report notes West African countries have started to manufacture ATS, and Central and South American countries are reporting an increase in ATS manufacturing, Reuters reports. The drugs are affordable and relatively easy to make, making them a popular choice for millions of people around the world, according to the report.

“Bath salts” are new stimulants that are becoming increasingly popular and available on the Internet, according to the report. These drugs fall outside of international controls, the report points out. (source: SAMHSA.gov)