

COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Esther L. Muña, MHA, CPC, CEO

*Chief Executive Officer and Financial Services Administrator
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation*



Esther Muña was appointed chief executive officer for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC), the health agency for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in April 2014. As CEO, Muña oversees strategic direction and all operations of the Commonwealth Health Center Hospital, Rota Health Center, Tinian Health Center, Public Health Services, and Behavioral Health Services and provides leadership and direction of Kagman Community Health Center.

Past experiences include:

- April 2013-April 2014: interim CEO for CHCC
- October 2012-April 2013: chief operations officer for CHCC; instrumental in the abatement of immediate jeopardies issued in September 2012 CMS survey
- January 2012-September 2012: Medicaid advisor and Medicaid HIT coordinator under the governor's office; instrumental in the amendment of the Medicaid State Plan to change the payment methodology for the only hospital in the CNMI (CHC)

Muña also worked for the Commonwealth Health Center Hospital under the Department of Public Health for several years. She was a hospital administrator for one and a half years and hospital CFO for four years. She held other healthcare management positions including business office manager, privacy officer, and medical records manager.

She received a Master of Health Administration degree from Saint Joseph's College of Maine and is an alumna of Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana (social and behavioral science major) and Northern Marianas College (accounting major).

She is active in several membership organizations, including the Pacific Island Health Officers Association – Board of Directors secretary, 2013 to current, the American Public Health Association, the American College of Healthcare Executives, the Healthcare Financial Management Association, the American Hospital Association, and the American Association of Professional Coders – president (Guam-CNMI Chapter), 2010.

Other recognitions of note include being featured in the February 2010 issue of *AAPC Coding Edge Magazine*: “*Minute with a Member*”, the winner of CDC Sustainable Management Project and presented winning project in CDC Sustainable Management Conference in Cape Town, South Africa (2006): “*Improving Revenue Collections with Total Quality Management*”. She is also a certified professional coder since 2004 and AHIMA-Approved ICD-10 coding instructor since 2012.