

PVCH selects new administrator

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Hi, Neighbor! Newspapers
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A Ponca City, Okla., hospital director has been named administrator of Pawnee Valley Community Hospital.

In a release dated Monday, PVCH announced the selection of Eric Lybarger, who is slated to begin duties as PVCH administrator Sept. 12.

Lybarger succeeds former PVCH administrator John Hughes, whose last day at PVCH was June 30.

Lybarger currently serves as the Director of Marketing and Physician Recruitment at Alliance-Health Ponca City, where he has served for the past 10 years. Overall, Lybarger has 18 years' experience in the healthcare industry, serving as communications specialist at Via Christi Oklahoma

Regional Medical Center in Ponca City prior to his current position.

He earned a bachelor's degree in mass communications and master's degree in education from Southwestern College in Winfield and has a master's degree in healthcare administration from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

"I am looking forward to joining the PVCH team and working to

continue the momentum the hospital has experienced over the past few years," Lybarger said.

"I've been impressed by the positive feedback I've received from community members, hospital employees and physicians about PVCH. Everyone I've talked to is very positive about the direction the hospital is headed. My family and I are looking forward to re-

locating to Larned and getting involved with school and community activities."

Lybarger has been very active in the Ponca City community. His involvement has included being president of the YMCA board; president of the Ponca City Main Street board; a Ponca Theater board member and Chamber of Commerce member. He will be relocating to Larned

with his wife Sarah and daughters, Victoria, 19; Emily, 16; and Olivia, 9.

"I'm excited about Eric becoming the new administrator at Pawnee Valley Community Hospital," said Shae Veach, vice-president of regional operations at Hays Medical Center. "We look forward to him coming to our community and we feel that he will be a good fit for our hospital."

New Administrator at PVCH impressed by employees, community support

Eric Lybarger started his new job as the administrator at Pawnee Valley Community Hospital (PVCH) in September. In the past several months he has been working on keeping the hospital moving in a positive direction, creating and maintaining important relationships, and focusing on making sure PVCH is a great place for employees to work, providers to practice medicine, and patients to receive care.

During his nine months at PVCH, Lybarger has been impressed with the quality of the hospital staff more than anything else.

"The people who work here are the reason PVCH is successful,"

Lybarger said.

"One of the first things I noticed when I started my job was the dedication of the staff. Even when I was interviewing for the job, I could sense the pride everyone has in the facility, especially the staff that worked in the old hospital and went through the closure scare and the fight to keep the hospital open."

Having worked in a larger for-profit hospital in Oklahoma for 10 years, it was Lybarger's experience in the "have-to-make-money" healthcare world that helped establish his beliefs in what really makes a hospital successful.

It is not all about the number of patients you see and how much

money you're making.

"It has to be about people," he said. "You have to genuinely care about people - patients and employees alike - to be a successful. Although the hospital has to generate enough revenue to keep the doors open, it's purpose is far from making money. Providing great care and working together as a cohesive team working toward a common goal is what you have to strive for as an organization."

Lybarger said this goes for every member of the organization no matter where they are on the organizational chart.

"We all have to work toward the goal of providing a great patient experience," he said. "How

you treat people during their most vulnerable time is very important. Patients may not remember the clinical details of their visit to the hospital, but they will certainly remember if you treated them with courtesy and respect."

Another thing Lybarger has been impressed by is the community support for the hospital. The fact that the community fought to keep the hospital and then built a brand new facility is a great healthcare success story.

Many times hospitals close without a fight and the community is left with an empty building, but not in Larned.

The community stood up for the hospital, which is motivation for PVCH



Eric Lybarger

to support the community, provide great care and to continuously look for ways to improve and offer additional services

when appropriate so people don't have to leave Pawnee County for care.

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