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Kearny County Hospital Welcomes Emily Dilley, MBA, HSL as New CEO

Dilley committed to KCH's growth as model for rural health

LAKIN, Kan. (September 7, 2021) — Kearny County Hospital has announced the appointment of a new Chief Executive Officer, Emily Dilley, who officially begins her leadership role on September 8.

“We are thrilled that Emily Dilley has accepted the Board of Trustees' offer to lead our KCH family,” said David Hofmeister, current hospital CEO. “It was a rigorous executive recruiting process, and our Board and leadership team worked diligently to find the right person. We thoroughly evaluated a roster of over 30 highly experienced candidates – all exceptional applicants who were qualified for the hospital CEO position. It was Emily’s unique experience and qualifications that brought her to the top of the list of contenders. In a field of excellence, Emily ranked the highest. With her shared vision for innovation in rural health, we are proud to present her as the next CEO of Kearny County Hospital, and we welcome her aboard.”

Dilley brings a decade of experience strengthening both the financial and patient care profiles of rural hospital systems. Most recently, she served in various leadership roles over the past nine years at Prairie Ridge Health in Columbus, Wisconsin. She has led community health needs assessments and strategic initiatives for rural hospital systems, as well as marketing, fundraising, securing grants and other efforts to grow and strengthen rural health opportunities.

“With her background in rural health initiatives and her deep understanding of the needs of rural communities, Emily is the right fit to lead Kearny County Hospital,” said Betty Greer, chairperson of the hospital’s Board of Trustees. “We are thrilled to bring in someone with her experience to help keep our community healthy, well and thriving – and continue to build on our vision for the future of KCH.”

Dilley and her family have spent the last decade in the rural Merrimac, Wisconsin community where her husband was born and raised. They treasure the small-town charm of rural life, as well as all aspects of developing relationships and building a sense of community.

With an in-depth understanding of the issues that can challenge the health of rural communities, Dilley previously served as the lead for multiple advanced practice and allied health rural clinical training programs, as well as for Project CLEAN (Community Leaders Eliminating the Abuse of Narcotics) and the Opioid Task Force in Columbia County, Wisconsin. She is quick-thinking and innovative in her approach to finding solutions.

“We celebrate and lead with strengths as we double down to address opportunities and barriers to the health of our communities,” she said. “We always ask, ‘how *can* we?’ not ‘how can’t we?’”

Dilley’s can-do spirit and her commitment to transparency and trust, teamwork, relationships, and inclusivity of different perspectives are among the reasons she was selected for her role at KCH – and why she accepted.

“Everyone can have a different vision of wellness – physical, emotional, spiritual – and it should be based on what is best for each person. The role of a healthcare provider is to be a guide, encouraging each person’s wellness journey or path while accepting and respecting differences,” Dilley said. “I always seek to lead through a no-blame, relationship-based culture built through trust, transparency, communication, acceptance, engagement, empowerment, and a team focus. The true success of any healthcare organization begins with putting people at the center: patients, the team, community – all united by a shared vision. Rural hospitals do this well because in rural healthcare, you are working with your neighbors, friends and family – you know each other, you have a relationship.”

“I look forward to joining Kearny County Hospital, and I know my family and I will feel right at home,” she added. “I am thrilled to be part of such a highly-respected community hospital, where I can contribute to KCH as a model for excellence in rural health.”

Dilley earned her MBA in Health Systems Leadership from Edgewood College, in Madison, Wisconsin, after completing her bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and Marketing from Viterbo University in Lacrosse, Wisconsin. For more information, please call 620-355-7550.

About Kearny County Hospital

Kearny County Hospital is committed to providing quality, compassionate healthcare services for our community to enrich the lives of family, friends, and neighbors. The hospital was founded in 1952 and is owned and operated by the Kearny County government to provide inpatient and outpatient hospital care, emergency medical treatment, and primary care. High Plains Retirement Village, the Kearny County Home for the Aged, was founded in 1983 to provide a nursing facility, senior housing, and long-term care services. In 1990, Kearny County Hospital began operation of the Family Health Center, which provides primary healthcare in Lakin and Deerfield. For more information, visit kearnycountyhospital.com.

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