

Contract finalized for new GMH head

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
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GMH board expected to approve hire of Vermont resident.

Vermont resident Mick Brant will be the next chief executive officer for Gothenburg Memorial Hospital pending board approval.

GMH board members are expected to hire Brant at their Aug. 16 meeting, according to Dr. Carol Shackleton, search committee chair.

Shackleton said Brant is the CEO of Grace Cottage Hospital in Townshend, VT, where he lives with his wife, Laura, and 18-month-old son, Caden.

Grace Cottage Hospital is described on the Internet as a 19-bed inpatient facility for acute and rehabilitative care. The critical access hospital is equipped with a 24-hour emergency department for critical care treatment, a hospice suite, rehabilitation department, laboratory and radiology departments and a pharmacy.

Brant will begin duties in Gothenburg Nov. 19. In the meantime, she said Kayleen Dudley will remain as acting interim CEO and will work closely with Brant as he makes the transition.

“I had a good feeling about him from the first phone interview,” Shackleton said. “He’s from a rural community and understands the rural lifestyle,”

She said Brant’s community values and mores will mesh well with the way Gothenburg functions.

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“He’s progressive and technologically savvy in terms of the Internet and other social media,” Shackleton said, noting that the CEO has installed electronic medical records which is something GMH plans to install.

“He has energy, drive, good ideas and got rave reviews from the people he’s worked with.”

Brant and his wife are originally from Yuma, CO. Being closer to family is one of the reasons he took the job, she said.

Shackleton and a four-member search committee started the process last April.

She said there were about 40 applicants for the position. Seven candidates were interviewed by phone and four were brought in for on-site interviews.

The contract of the hospital’s former CEO was terminated in February.

An interview with Brant will be published in the Aug. 15 issue of The Times.

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