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Signature names new MPH head

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By KEN McLEMORE, Hope Star Editor

A native of Houston, Texas, who has been associated with health care in Angleton, Texas, for the past 12 years was named as chief executive officer of Medical Park Hospital here Wednesday.

Todd Lorenz, 37, will begin duties here no later than April 2.

Lorenz said he will spend some time in evaluating the situation at MPH and "listening" in order to make "informed decisions" about the needs at the local hospital. Lorenz was to be introduced to the MPH Community Board at press time Wednesday.

"My approach is to be a coach and lead by example, and make sure that everyone has the resources they need to be successful," Lorenz said.

Lorenz has been associated with Angleton Danbury Medical Center in Angleton, Texas, in the Houston area, for 12 years in various leadership positions.

He said the Angleton facility was not owned by MPH parent company Signature Hospital Corp. of Dallas.

"As part of the management team at Angleton Danbury, we worked in partnership with our caregivers and community to become the health care provider of choice in the area. I see the same potential for Medical Park," Lorenz said in an announcement statement issued Wednesday by Signature.

The company statement noted that Lorenz will begin his tenure at MPH "by learning more about the hospital and the community, with plans to build on the strengths of Medical Park to reduce the number of people leaving the community for health care."

Lorenz is a native of Houston, and a graduate of the University of Houston with a master's degree in health care administration and business administration, and he holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Texas at Austin.

"I look forward to partnering with the employees and physicians of Medical Park to make the hospital a vibrant part of the local community and a source of pride for Hope," he said. "I firmly believe Signature Hospital Corporation is a high-quality organization that will provide the resources for us to achieve this goal."

Married for 12 years, Lorenz and his wife, Julie, anticipate relocating to Hope by early April.

"The delivery of health care in our country is undergoing profound and tumultuous changes. Coping with these changes requires assertive and experienced leadership," Signature President and CEO Charles R. Miller said in a statement issued Wednesday. "We feel very strongly that Todd Lorenz possesses those characteristics and that he is the right person for Medical Park. I feel that Signature and the community of Hope are very fortunate to have

attracted a person of Todd's caliber.”

Signature, parent company of MPH since 2005, made the announcement of the change some two months after the resignation of former MPH CEO Jimmy Leopard.

Leopard announced his resignation as CEO at MPH on Dec. 28, 2006, “to pursue other career opportunities,” according to a Signature statement issued at the time. He had taken the helm at MPH under the ownership of Columbia/Health Corporation of America in 1997, and was the fifth CEO at the hospital since 1995 in a period of turmoil for the local facility.

Leopard has not said what his plans are for the future.

Columbia/HCA subsequently spun off Medical Park into a 17-hospital group formed under the Triad Hospitals brand in 1999, and the facility remained part of that group until it was spun off into a regional group under Triad in June, 2003.

Triad sold the hospital to Signature in October, 2005, and in early 2006, the company cut 28 staff positions and restructured its physician and vendor contracts.

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