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## Legacy names interim PMC leader

*Blaine has extensive experience in health care field*

POCATELLO — In the wake of CEO Pat Hermanson's announcement that he'll leave the helm of the Portneuf Medical Center at the end of this month, Legacy Hospital Partners said Monday that it has found a short-term leader for PMC while the search for a permanent replacement is conducted.

Gary Hill, division president for the Plano, Texas-based Legacy, told the medical leadership of PMC during an annual meeting on Monday that health care veteran Steven L. Blaine would serve as the hospital's chief executive officer on an interim basis while the search is conducted.

Hermanson announced Friday he would leave PMC to pursue a doctorate in health administration.

Blaine's experience in the health care industry includes more than 16 years as a hospital administrator, a regional vice president for HealthTrust and a division president for Hospital Corporation of America. He has also spent several years as a consultant. "He is an excellent administrator," Hill said of Blaine.

Hill said Legacy has just started the search for a new CEO and it could take several months to complete.

"It's important to take our time and find the right person," he said. "With Steve here, we can afford to take that time. By the same token, if the right person is found quickly, we will move on it."

Bannock County voters approved a new governance structure for the county-owned hospital on Nov. 4. The assets of PMC are being given over to the Portneuf Health Care Foundation, which will then give them to the Community Benefit Organization that will own the hospital.

In exchange, PHCF will receive 23 percent ownership in the CBO. Legacy is putting up \$200 million to pay off PMC's existing debt and complete its east campus consolidation project. Legacy will own 77 percent of the CBO. The signing of a definitive agreement is anticipated in the coming weeks.

Hill credited Hermanson as having a key role during the nearly two-year process of determining PMC's future governance and the transition after voter approval. "We wish Pat the very best in pursuing his goal," Hill said. "He did an excellent job during the transition. Pat was a calming influence."

Hill said the search for a permanent CEO would be an inclusive process. He said once candidates for the position are identified, they will be reduced to two or three choices.

Those candidates will then interview with the boards of the PHCF and the CBO, PMC's board of trustees, physician leadership and key management.

"We want to make sure everyone feels good about that candidate," Hill said.