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by Nathan Brown

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Sollis named new EIRMC CEO

Steps in Jan. 1 to replace retiring Doug Crabtree

Jeff Sollis will take over as CEO of Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center after the current one retires. Sollis is the hospital's chief operating officer now. He will take charge on Jan. 1, after Doug Crabtree, who announced his plans to retire in late October, steps down, according to an EIRMC news release. Crabtree has been EIRMC's CEO since 1999 and had been its chief operating officer from 1993 to 1997. His retirement becomes official Dec. 31.

"We offer some of the most sophisticated and advanced medical services in southeast Idaho and our greater region, and so to work with such excellent staff and physicians, for me, is both exciting and such a privilege," Sollis said Tuesday. "My hope in the future, really, is to build upon what this amazing team has already accomplished and continue to elevate the care we provide to our patients."

Sollis said "transparency between health care providers and consumers" is becoming increasingly important in the industry and driving hospitals to improve, a challenge he thinks EIRMC's staff is well positioned to meet.

"We really have to rise to the challenge that patients have placed upon us more than ever before," he said. "They're demanding, and deserve, excellent clinical care, and need great customer service, and, fortunately, we're well positioned to do that."

In his current role, Sollis already has administrative and operational oversight over the 334-bed medical and surgical hospital, the behavioral hospital and the cancer center. He also has been integral in physician recruitment efforts, the release said.

About 1,200 employees and an additional 250 medical staff work at EIRMC, Sollis said.

Sollis just finished three years on the board of directors for the Greater Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce and now serves on the Idaho State University Physician Assistant Advisory Board. Before working at Eastern Idaho Regional Medical center, Sollis was COO at Timpanogos Regional Hospital in Orem, Utah, and he worked at hospitals in Kansas and Colorado before that. He has about 10 years of hospital leadership experience altogether.

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