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Oregon State Hospital welcomes new chief medical officer

Oregon State Hospital is proud to announce the addition of Dr. Rupert Goetz to its leadership team. Goetz will assume the role of chief medical officer on Monday, August 8.

Selected after a nationwide search, Goetz will report directly to superintendent Greg Roberts and lead the hospital's clinical departments, including psychiatry, psychology, social work, medicine, rehabilitation, nursing, and recovery services.

"Dr. Goetz brings a wealth of experience and expertise to a very important position here at the hospital," said Roberts. "I'm confident he will provide the strong leadership necessary to keep the hospital on the right path as we strive to improve patient care and move toward patient-centered treatment."

Goetz comes from Hawaii's Department of Health; however, he is no stranger to the Oregon mental health system. With more than 30 years in the medical profession, Goetz began his career as an emergency room physician and family practitioner. He came to Oregon in 1985 for his psychiatric residency at Oregon Health & Science University, where he worked until 1995.

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At OHSU he held several positions including director of psychiatric emergency services and director of acute ambulatory psychiatry for the Department of Psychiatry and director of behavioral medicine for the Department of Family Medicine. After that, Goetz served as the medical director for what was the Oregon Office of Mental Health Services and worked as the medical director for Clackamas County Mental Health before accepting the position of medical director for Hawaii State Hospital in 2003. When he left Hawaii in July, Goetz had served as the director of the Mental Health Transformation State Incentive Grant and medical director for the Department of Health's Adult Mental Health Division.

Goetz said his time in Hawaii was excellent preparation for the Oregon State Hospital.

"I gained a much better understanding of what recovery should look like in community mental health and how important it is to consider trauma when caring for psychiatric patients," Goetz said.

As the highest ranking clinician at OSH, Goetz will play an essential role in the hospital's continuous improvement efforts. Goetz said this is what drew him back to Oregon and the state hospital. "There is great potential synergy between continuous quality improvement and effective clinical treatment planning. Both are based on a clear understanding of what has been achieved so far."

"I am excited to join so many dedicated professionals who have made a huge investment in the hospital," said Goetz. "It's an honor to be part of such a team. I couldn't resist the opportunity to return to Oregon to help make mental health recovery real for patients, staff and the community."

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