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SPOTLIGHT

Chies wants to reconnect Central Health with community

By ASHLEY MURTHA amurtha@lesueurcountynews.com Oct 14, 2018 Updated Oct 16, 2018



Ryan Chies has officially taken over administrative duties at Central Health Care in Le Center and he wants to bridge the gap between the community and the nursing home. (Ashley Murtha/Le Sueur County News)

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After the previous administrator Karl
Care nursing home in Le Center offic



Ryan Chies has been a licensed nursing home administrator since 2002 and has been working with Pelovsky and the Central Health Care staff since the end of July. Originally, Chies was on a six-month contract with the nursing home so he could learn everything he needed to know about it before fully taking over, but when Pelovsky died, he took over the duties full-time.

Pelovsky had been battling a progressive illness for about a year, which encouraged him to start looking for someone to replace him.

“I think he felt comfortable with my background,” Chies said. “I think it brought some peace to him to have someone who could continue the family feel (of the nursing home) but still bring it to where it needed to be.”

Chies grew up around nursing homes as his family owned and operated one throughout his life. Now they have grown to owning two nursing homes and one assisted living home and his dad has been an administrator for 40 years.

“I grew up in this profession,” Chies said. “My first (unpaid) job was helping with the activities at the nursing home and my first paid job was as a dietary aid at a nursing home in Brighton. Then I moved to maintenance and being a handyman around the nursing home. That’s a great life skill.”

Chies graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in 1999 with a political science degree and hopes of going into law school. He decided to defer his graduate adventure for a year. That’s when his family made some changes at their nursing home and wanted to bring him into the business.

“In college, I worked in payroll and a had no intention of going into it.”

Eventually, Chies realized that the n

From there, he moved to a skilled nu
Twin Cities before starting consulting



“Le Center is very special,” Chies said. “It gives the impression that it’s not an institution, it focuses on family values and there’s a longevity with the staff. Some of the staff have been here for years and are now in their 50s.”

But there are a few things that Chies would like to change, and some of them he has already started working on.

“We need to supplement (the older workers) with new youth,” Chies said. “We need to build a support network between the community and the nursing home. I think not having (the nursing home) here would have a negative impact on the community.”

In order to get this started, Chies has already met with several groups and important people in the Le Center community including the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and Tri-City United’s superintendent.

“I want to work with the school to bring part of the community. I’ve talked to what (Central Health Care) did. I want and our facility.”



Besides working to connect to the community, Chies also wants to work on things within the facility and its connections to other facilities.

“We want to be progressive in the service we give,” Chies said. “We’ll only sign with hospices that have a good track record, we’re becoming more dedicated to transitional care and trying to raise the retention rate of our nursing assistants because we couldn’t do what we do here without them.”

But most importantly, Chies wants to make sure that everyone who works at Central Health Care realizes that they are working with human beings.

“I want to make a difference in these people’s lives,” Chies said. “I want everyone to treat these people like individuals and establish a sense that we are all one team and everyone plays a key role. We are caring for human beings and I want to make sure their experience here is worthwhile and enjoyable.”

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