

santacruzsentinel.com

Matko Vranjes appointed as Watsonville Community Hospital interim CEO

Nick Sestanovich

2–3 minutes

Matko Vranjes, Watsonville Community Hospital's chief operating officer, has been named its interim chief executive officer as the Pajaro Valley Healthcare District's Board of Directors searches for a new CEO, the district announced in a news release.

A 31-year veteran of the hospital, Vranjes will be temporarily taking over from Steven Sayler, who announced this week that he will be resigning his position April 10 due to a private family matter after a year and a half as CEO. Vranjes will take over April 11.

Vranjes started at the hospital in 1991, over time holding positions in materials management, facilities management, emergency management, compliance and as the safety officer for Watsonville Community Hospital, per the news release. He currently serves as COO, providing management oversight for the development of "quality, integrated, cost-effective medical programs," according to the release.

"The Community knows Matko," said Pajaro Valley Healthcare District Chair John Friel in a press statement. "He grew up in Watsonville, graduated from its schools, is raising his family here and volunteers at numerous organizations. He is the right leader at

the right time to fill this role, while our ad hoc commences the process to hire a new CEO.”

A two-member ad hoc committee consisting of Friel and board member Marcus Pimentel has been created to begin the search for a permanent CEO.

In a statement, Vranjes thanked the board for naming him to the position.

“I would like to thank the Pajaro Valley Healthcare District Board for their support and vote of confidence,” he said. “I also want to thank all the wonderful people who work at the hospital for their service throughout this transition. Let’s embrace this opportunity to grow our partnership with the community and ensure we continue meet the healthcare needs of the community we serve.”