



CONTACT: Trista G. Meister
239-354-1468

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Scott Burgess Named Incoming CEO of the David Lawrence center

Naples, FL – The David Lawrence Center Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Scott Burgess to Chief Executive Officer. Burgess will officially start January 6, 2014. He will succeed David C. Schimmel who has held the position since 1989. Schimmel gave the Board nearly a year to transition to new leadership. His last day will be January 3rd - the eve of his thirty year stint with the not-for-profit he helped nurture to a thriving, highly recognized organization with nearly 300 employees, eight locations and a \$19 million operating budget that impacts the lives of more than 40,000 children, adults and families each year.

“We recognize the outstanding job that Dave Schimmel has done over the years in building and running this organization. We are excited about Scott Burgess taking over as Chief Executive Officer, carrying on the work that Dave has done. It’s a very exciting time for this organization.” said Pablo Veintimilla, President of the Board of Directors.

“After an extensive national search conducted over the last six months with more than 100 qualified candidates responding, we are excited to announce that our search is finally over and Scott Burgess will be our new CEO.” stated Doug Johnson, PhD., Chairman of the CEO Selection Committee and Vice Chair of the Board of Directors.

Johnson adds, “Scott brings with him an understanding of the challenges and demands of direct care staff; strategic planning experience in primary care and behavioral health integration, effective statewide advocacy efforts with the legislature; proven fundraising success; and dedication to community outreach and partner engagement. This experience makes him a great fit for furthering the future of the David Lawrence Center.”

Burgess comes to DLC after an illustrious 21-year career with Alexian Brothers Center for Mental Health - an arm of Alexian Brothers Health System a large multi-hospital healthcare network - in Arlington Heights, Illinois. He began working for the mental health center as an

entry level vocational counselor and progressed across time to become Executive Director – a position he held for five years. During his tenure with the organization he also served as the Manager of Aftercare Services, Director of Program Services and Director of Research. He is a proven clinician with experience working with children, adolescent and adult populations and is a highly recognized supervisor, manager and leader with knowledge of all facets of community mental health.

Burgess earned his Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from Illinois State University; his Master of Arts degree in counseling psychology from Concordia University; a certification in Clinical Research Trials from the University of Chicago; and pursued a doctorate in education from Northern Illinois University. His is a licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC).

Passionate about effective policy for those struggling with mental illness, Burgess co-authored legislation that became law in Illinois to develop its first ever five year statewide mental health strategic plan (2013-2018). Recognized as a leader in mental health treatment, he was appointed as a member of the Governor’s Task Force to develop the state road map for improved care which was completed and approved in early 2013.

Burgess states, “I’m very excited to put my experience to work in partnership with the amazing staff and Board at the David Lawrence Center, local organizations and the community towards increasing awareness, decreasing stigma and expanding access for mental health and addiction issues in Southwest Florida. I look forward to meeting the challenges ahead and embracing the opportunities. I’m truly honored to be taking the helm of such a well-respected, supported and growing organization as the David Lawrence Center.”

Burgess will relocate to Naples with this wife and three children.

David Lawrence Center is the Southwest Florida-based, not-for-profit leading provider of behavioral health solutions dedicated to inspiring and creating life-changing wellness for every individual. The Center provides innovative, comprehensive inpatient, outpatient, residential and community based prevention and treatment services for the one in four local children and adults who experience mental health, emotional, psychological and substance abuse challenges. David Lawrence Center has eight locations in Collier County and touches the lives of more than 30,000 people each year. For more information about David Lawrence Center call 239-455-8500 or visit www.DavidLawrenceCenter.org.

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