Tyson Lacy is realistic about hospital future

Most kids have a dream for what they want to be when they grow up. Doctor, astronaut, mechanic, cowboy, movie star, NBA MVP, forest ranger, fire fighter… the list is long.

"I never had a dream like that," admits Lincoln Hospital Chief Financial Officer Tyson Lacy. "I was way too common sense." Sure, he would have loved to play professional baseball, but "that was just not realistic."

You could say that it was the realistic, grounded side of Tyson that led him into his life's calling — accountant and all-around money management man.

"OK, I admit it. I went into accounting because of competency. I like money. I like math. I'm good at it so I do the numbers," he says with a grin.

And though he's a fresh faced 26 years old, Tyson has a wealth of experience not only with accounting in general, but managing medical finances in specific.

"I got my degree from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, then worked as an accountant for the college right after graduation."

Looking for a way back to the Pacific Northwest, the Worley, Idaho farm kid took a job with Michael R. Bell & Company, a CPA and accounting firm in Spokane specializing in healthcare management. In short, Tyson knows how to manage medical money.

"They taught me everything I need to know about financial services in a hospital setting. I've done accounting, auditing, cost reporting, reimbursement — you name it."

So what is his top priority for Lincoln? "To get us turned around. The ship is not sinking it's just off course. My priority is to correct the ship which will take time and change of perspective for much of the staff," he admits.

Fine tuning includes working toward being more efficient, finding what niches are most profitable and becoming experts on reimbursement — a proactive approach in difficult times.

"That's one of the things I liked about Lincoln Hospital and one of the reasons I came here," says Tyson. "I liked that Lincoln Hospital is on the cutting edge and Tom likes to be aggressive and make things happen."

Tyson also says he sees the benefit of having so many long-time employees here. "It seems everyone has been here 10 to 15 years or more," he laughs. "There are a lot of good, knowledgeable people with history and experience."

Tyson and wife Rachel, whom he met in junior high at Valley Christian ("I started hanging out with her and never stopped.") have purchased a home in Davenport and are looking forward to small town life with daughter Kariya, 20 months. "It's a great little town. It's got everything we need."