

**General Hospital District Information Update:**

- The Mill Levy passed on November 6<sup>th</sup>. On behalf of the hospital district and all of our employees, I want to thank Granite County for supporting the hospital district mill levy. Thank you for recognizing the value health care services bring to our community. We are dedicated to you and we will continue to focus our efforts on providing high quality care and the services you need most. I'd like to give a special thank you to the H&R thrift store, Jim Jenner and the Rotary for their generosity and hard work in support of the hospital district.
- I would like to provide some insight in response to the Letter to the Editor from Elena Gagliano in the *Philipsburg Mail* on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, where she shared her frustration with the public referring to our Long Term Care Services as a Nursing Home.

Granite County Medical Center began serving the healthcare needs of the county in the 1953. The Nursing Home opened in the 1970's in the same building, but under a separate license. In 2008, for efficiency and fiscal responsibility, it was decided to transition from a separate Nursing Home to providing these services under the Critical Access Hospital License. There were numerous meetings over the past 10 years where this change was explained, however many in the community do not make the distinction. In their eyes the services provided have not changed. We are still the provider of care to our elderly. What we call it does not really matter. What is important is that we are here and providing this needed care to our community.

Elena is correct in that we do not have yearly "Nursing Home" inspections as a free standing, licensed nursing home. However, we do have yearly inspections as a licensed Critical Access Hospital. In addition, we have yearly inspections (surveys) for our Adult Day Care Program, Pharmacy license, Laboratory certification and our Radiology Department license. There are also surveys for Fire Life Safety certification and surveys of our C.N.A. classes. These go above and beyond a licensed nursing home inspection. There are extensive licensure and CMS Conditions of Participation requirements that must be met. These surveys each take several days to complete and are exceedingly thorough. We are required to provide a plan of correction for any deficiencies that are found during a survey to ensure the care we provide is always safe and meets or exceeds the industry standards.

To address the difference between a Critical Access Hospital and a licensed Nursing Home; the nursing home does not need to provide compliance with the broad scope of requirements included under the Critical Access Hospital. The Critical Access Hospital provides all the services of a licensed Nursing Home and so much more. A Nursing Home does not provide outpatient clinic, Laboratory, Radiology or Emergency Room services to the residents. If a Nursing Home patient becomes ill, they will be picked up by the local Ambulance and taken to a hospital for treatment. In a Critical Access Hospital they can be treated within the facility, minimizing stress on the patient and their family. Similar to a licensed Nursing Home, we provide all the same Long Term Care Services, including an Activities department that continually focuses on maximizing every patient's quality of life.

It is not that we haven't tried to change the stated name of the service we provide; it is that, it is not how we prefer to spend precious time. The Hospital District prefers to focus on delivering optimal care through commitment to excellence, quality, safety and fiscal responsibility.

**Activities /Life Enrichment:**

- On Thursday, the 4<sup>th</sup>, they took a drive to see the Fall colors. They sure were vibrant and residents were excited to see so many deer out that day.
- On the 8<sup>th</sup> they took a trip to Butte for a bit of shopping.
- Something new was presented in crafting this month. They tried their hand at scrapbooking and made All Occasion and Holiday cards. Rose from Clinton was the instructor for scrapbooking. She is interested in coming back in the Spring to do the class again.
- On the 25<sup>th</sup> they had a special outing and went “Out to Dinner” at the Brown Derby
- On the 29<sup>th</sup> they filled candy bags for the school children that would be parading at our facility on the 31<sup>st</sup>. This was the first year we had the Preschoolers and they were quite delightful. They handed out over 100 bags of candy to the school children.
- The Holidays are fast approaching, we held our Annual Family & Friends Dinner for all our patients on Thursday November 15<sup>th</sup>. This is a very special event where patients invite their family and friends to join them for a full Thanksgiving Feast. It is our way of preserving their Family Holiday Traditions and giving Thanks for the opportunity to care for them. It was a wonderful event and our kitchen served more than 85 meals.

**Business Department/ Revenue Cycle Team:**

On November 12, 2018, Yellowstone Insurance’s Subscribers’ Advisory Committee (“SAC”) approved a distribution from the Subscribers’ Savings Accounts (“SSAs”) in the aggregate amount of \$400,000.00 to current subscribers of record with in-force policies of insurance issued by Yellowstone. The aggregate distribution amount will be allocated to eligible Subscribers based on the ratio of each member’s one year net premium to the total net premium of all members for the prior year. Granite County Hospital District is entitled to receive a distribution of \$2,289.02 (the “Distribution Amount”). I have opted to receive this disbursement as a credit against first quarter 2019 premiums.

**Central Supply:** As I shared awhile back, the Hospital District has entered into a group purchasing agreement with Intalere for our supplies and ending the agreement for Group Purchasing with Vizient. Our account representative, Jim Hanley, has been very helpful in negotiating a lower minimum order dollar amount to qualify for free shipping from \$750 to \$500. The rest of the departments such as Dietary, Maintenance and Housekeeping, are also benefitting from this group purchasing discount. Central Supply has been comparison shopping and one of the incontinent products costs \$15.10 per bag of 16. It was found to cost \$7.61 with a new vendor.

**Clinics / Radiology:** No Report

**Dietary:** No Report

**Grants:**

- **CT Project:** As decided at the last Board Meeting, the project is on hold pending bidding of the site work in February.
- **HRSA Network Planning Grant.** The team is in the middle of the Community Health Needs Assessment process and surveys have been mailed out. The Office of Rural Health expects the results back and ready for us in January, at which time we will analyze the data we’ve collected, be presented with the CHNA results, narrow down focus areas and begin the strategic planning process.
- **Steel-Reese Foundation:** The Medical Training Program is working on meeting their volunteer hours in conjunction with their coursework.
- **Helmsley Charitable Trust:** No updates available

**Emergency Preparedness:** No Report

**Environmental Services:** No Report

**Human Resources:** Open positions remain in Lab and Nursing, one CLS, one day shift nurse and 1day shift CNA

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**IT:**

- **Athenahealth will be acquired by Veritas Capital and Evergreen Coast Capital ( a subsidiary of Elliott Management) effective Q1 2019.** The belief is that this will give Athena the flexibility and focus to drive long-term success and value for their customers. The company will still operate under the same name Athenahealth and will continue as a privately held company. Our contacts will remain as before and the headquarters will be retained in Watertown, Massachusetts.

Athena believes "by joining forces with a partner that is equally passionate about athenahealth's mission, we have the opportunity to tap into their additional expertise to help advance our products and our purpose. I'm confident that together we will be in a better position than ever to transform healthcare and help ensure your ongoing success."

- Our IT Department is preparing for the Lab upgrade to Orchard LIS. This will require replacing the two workstations in the Lab Office as well as some network changes.
- Dave has upgraded our MS Windows Domain Controller to WS2008R2 to WS2012R2 since support for the 2008 version is coming to a close.
- All our workstations, which are W2007SP2, will be upgraded to W2010 sometime in mid-2019.
- IT Strategic Plan. Dave is working with John, Kristi and I to review the IT Strategic Plan that was drafted back in August of 2017. One new element is to estimate a replacement cost for the IT system as a whole and use that as a reference for seeking grant funding.

**Laboratory:** No Report

**Maintenance / Transportation:** No Report

**Marketing:**

- Our Facebook presence over the past week has increased by 10,000% in the number of people engaged. I request you each encourage your contacts to follow GCHD on Facebook. This will improve our reach and ability to communicate with our community.
- The Granite County Alzheimer's Association is working to create a dementia friendly Granite County. To assist them in their efforts, I suggest we invite the group to join us at our next Board Meeting to share their vision.

**Medical Staff:**

- New Credentials: **None**
- Re-credentialed Provider: **Dr. James Taylor Teleradiology**  
**Dr. James Harris Teleradiology**

**Nursing:**

**October Patient Census**

Intermediate Swing Bed (LTC)	= 21	Adult Day Care Visits	= 4
Swing Bed billable days	= 37(2)	Deaths	= 1
Acute billable days	= 13(4)	ER Visits	= 32
Observation Patients	= 1	OP Nursing	= 0

**Physical Therapy:**

October had 119 Visits

**Safety Report:** No new concerns or incidents reported in October

Respectfully submitted,  
Maria Stoppler CEO/DON