

**General Hospital District Information Update:**

**Current Healthcare Legislative Issues:**

Medicaid Expansion: The Montana Legislature is taking a break from its daily order of business to permit the transmittal of legislation between the House and Senate. For many lawmakers, this may be the first time they have returned home since the start of the session. When they return home, they may take a few days to relax and perhaps measure the public's impressions of the first half of the session.

When they return to Helena, the pace of the session will increase as the budget is debated on the floor and the conversation over Medicaid expansion will intensify with an expected March 16 "super hearing" already on the calendar. The question frequently asked of MHA by the membership is, "What can we do in our community to increase engagement on expansion?" Twenty six of MHA member hospitals have stepped up and responded to their request to pass the MHA model resolution in support of expansion. To date, over 357 people have signed MHA's virtual petition asking the legislature to extend Medicaid expansion.

**Activities /Life Enrichment:**

- Our Birthday Party was held on January 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Julian Ricci played piano for us on a couple of Sundays. He plays classical music and has a large audience. On Tuesdays, Jay Martin comes to play country music on guitar. Nikki Graybeal brings warm cookies for patients to eat while she reads to them.
- In January our Enrichment Group Meeting was held on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Our patients talk about their daily lives here and how things are going for them. They share any concerns, ideas for new activities and take the opportunity to appreciate staff.
- Quilting & Sewing is still on Wednesday afternoons. There usually is a variety of sewing projects happening at the same time. A couple of ladies are embroidering. One is embroidering a handbag, another, a pillow cover. They both are looking great.
- We have added something new for those that choose not to participate in the usual daily activities. We have a new set of activities on Tuesdays that encourage them to be active. These programs are designed to meet their individual needs. These are smaller groups that don't last as long. It is going well and they are enjoying the events and activity.

**Business Department/ Revenue Cycle Team:**

- As of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2019, all hospitals were required to post their price lists online in an effort to increase price transparency and allow patients to compare and make educated choices on their healthcare needs. The rule, created by CMS (the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services), mirrors a 2006 California law that mandated hospitals share price master lists on a state-run website. However, the law now requires hospitals provide that information in a "machine-readable" format, such as a spreadsheet, and do so on their own websites. Barbara Feder Ostrov, senior correspondent with Kaiser Health News, said the new transparency could benefit patients and taxpayers in the long run. "It allows policymakers to review the prices that are out there and negotiate with government and insurers.

Our Hospital and Clinic Price Lists are posted on our Website under "***Documents and Forms***", under the heading "***Financial Documents***"

**Central Supply:** No Report

**Clinics / Radiology:** No Report

**Dietary:** I am pleased to announce our New Dietary Manger is Lucinda Fitz, replacing Jean McKinney who will remain in the role of per diem cook.

**Grants:**

- **CT Project:** The Bid opening is scheduled for tomorrow and we anticipate at least two bidders.
- **HRSA Network Planning Grant.** Kayla Sanders just returned from the HRSA Annual Conference in Washington DC.

**Emergency Preparedness:** No Report

**Environmental Services:** No Report

**Human Resources:**

- Employee Satisfaction Survey data has been compiled and the results are provided in your packet for review. Summarizing the data, I can say:
  1. Most find their work challenging and rewarding
  2. Staff find the most satisfying part of their job to be; helping and caring for others, being appreciated by patients, feeling accomplished
  3. Staff find the least satisfying part of their job to be; time required to do tasks that take away from direct patient care, Drama and negativity, Lack of dedication and feeling unappreciated.
  4. Most feel the work they are doing is what they expected it to be.
  5. Most rate staff morale as Fair to Good
  6. In terms of how staff feel about benefits: Compensation, PTO retirement, Dental Vision and Flexible Spending are rated Fair to Good, while Health Insurance plan is rated Fair to Poor.
  7. When asked what benefits we could improve on or add, the response was; pay raises, lower deductibles and HSA statements, keeping the COLA, family health benefits, keeping a good health insurance plan, and adding employee of the month.
  8. When asked how we can make GCHD a better place to work, the response was; improved staff attitudes, increased morale through additional staff recognition programs, teamwork and listening to each other's ideas, more permanent staff dedicated to GCMC.This information will be used in promoting employee engagement, improving job satisfaction and providing insight into employee recruitment and retention strategy.
- Open positions include; One day shift and one night shift nurse, three night shift CNAs, and maintenance on call
- Department heads were tasked with reviewing team job descriptions and completing annual performance reviews by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Most are completed and have been placed in the employee's file. There are a few left outstanding due to schedule conflicts and those are expected to be in by March 15<sup>th</sup>.

**IT:**

- The Orchard Lab setup and connectivity with AthenaNet is complete. End user testing began March 1st, and we are on track for Go-Live on March 18th.
- Dave is also still working with the Server Administrator for Western Montana Mental Health Center on the technological details regarding the joint tele-health service connection we will be undertaking. They have sent the minimum system requirements regarding hardware and software that is required to support a successful videoconferencing experience.

**Laboratory:** No Report

**Maintenance / Transportation:** No Report

**Marketing and Outreach:**

- Our After Holiday Staff Celebration was held on February 21<sup>st</sup> from 5-8pm at Camp Creek Homefire Grill. Employee of the Year, Patsy Kingrey, was announced and staff were honored for their years of service and dedication. I want to thank Vivian Crouse and her husband for joining us and showing our appreciation for our wonderful staff.

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**Medical Staff:**

- New Credentials: **None**
- Re-credentialed Providers:

Dr James F. Schmutz  
 Dr Richard W. Bentley  
 Dr Roderick J. Willmore  
 Dr Brett S. Talbot

Dr James P. Edlin  
 Dr David R. WardenIII  
 Jamie B. Goldberg, ACNP

**Nursing:**

We were surveyed on November 1, 2018, by (NATCEP), the Nurse Aide Training and Competency Evaluation Program. Our CNA Training program was deemed to meet the requirements set forth by the Department and is approved until May 31, 2020.

**January Patient Census**

Intermediate Swing Bed (LTC)	= 20	Adult Day Care Visits	= 5
Swing Bed billable days	= 31 (1)	Deaths	= 0
Acute billable days	= 3 (3)	ER Visits	= 30
Observation Patients	= 3	OP Nursing	= 0

**Physical Therapy:**

January had 160 Visits  
 OP = 128  
 SB = 21  
 LTC = 11

**Safety Report:** No concerns shared for January

**Foundation Report:** The Women’s Wellness Brunch was held on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Museum. It was another successful event, with inspiring presentations and phenomenal food catered by Chef Brent of Parkers Restaurant in Drummond.

Topics included all first-person stories on surviving and enjoying life; titled

“A Mother’s Story of Survival after Suicide” A local mom shared her journey of healing after her son’s suicide.

“Finding Me, Through Weight, Babies and Depression” A story of learning to love and accept yourself as you are.

“Stronger in the Broken Places” about Life not being what you planned but learning to live and enjoy it.

These personal stories were very moving and heartfelt sharing valuable lessons learned and insights gained.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Maria Stoppler CEO/DON