

General Hospital District Information Update:

Lawmakers Adjourn 2017 Special Session

The Montana Legislature adjourned the 2017 Special Session with final passage of a Republican budget package that authorizes about \$94 million in fund transfers, delayed payments and a new management fee imposed on the Montana State Fund. Lawmakers also authorized \$15 million in state employee furloughs and suspending for two months the employer contribution to state employee health benefits. Republicans overwhelmingly rejected the governor's proposal to increase the taxes on hotels and rental cars to help offset the reductions.

Many industries took a financial hit, including health care. The governor authorized a \$49 million cut to DPHHS that included an expected 5 percent reduction to inpatient hospital payment rates, a 10 percent reduction to outpatient hospital payment rates, reductions to DME and CPC+ payments and the elimination of provider-based clinic payments and the Passport to Health program. After taking into account the loss of federal matching funds, the cuts amount to about a \$109 million cut to the Department.

The legislative package includes the requirement that the governor extend the contract for a private prison in Shelby or forfeit more than \$30 million in funding (\$15 million of which would be used to bolster the state fire fund).

Festival of Trees

Well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all, the event is anticipated to have raised even more than last year. The Foundation did an outstanding job at coordinating and the Ranch at Rock Creek went above and beyond in hosting an elegant evening in true western style. The Donators, Bidders and Decorators are appreciated beyond words for their generosity and creativity.

Athena Optimization Onsite Nov 6-8

I wanted to thank the team for a very successful optimization visit.

The business office is energized and very excited to tackle their prescribed workflows. The information presented will allow them to be successful in improving RCM and return on our revenue.

The providers feel more confident in their workflows and have gained a greater understanding of processes and expectations.

We have resolved many issues interfering with workflow and claim submissions

Again, I am very grateful for the time and energy our staff and the Athena team gave in getting us on more stable ground going forward.

Our new account manager Will Heuschneider has been coordinating follow up sessions to provide support and build on the information gained in the earlier sessions.

Activities /Life Enrichment: .

- October was “Walktober Month”. Our residents again had a team, the “Happy Walkers”.
- 19.75 miles were covered by our energetic group.
- We will have a table at the Yule Night Craft Show displaying all of the crafts made during Creative Expressions.
- The Residents are also making a quilt with the ladies from the Triple Creek Quilt Club in Drummond are we are hopeful it will be ready in time for Yule Night.
- The Halloween Party was a great time with costumes for all and having the Elementary School parade through and receive candy was a real treat!
- The Holiday Dinner was November 16th and our amazing culinary team hosted over 60 people with an outstanding meal. My sincere gratitude for all who volunteered and participated in this very special event.

Business Department/ Revenue Cycle Team:

- Jaime Bancroft, Business Office Manager, has hired two replacement staff in the Business office and has restructured and clearly defined roles and responsibilities within the department. With the assistance of the Athena Optimization Team she has devised daily, weekly, monthly task schedules to keep staff focused and on track. This will promote organization, improved workflow and foster accountability within the team.
- Monida Healthcare, our payer contract manager is working to negotiate an agreeable contract with Humana Medicare Advantage. If accomplished, this would provide our seniors with an in-network Medicare Advantage Plan option. As many are aware, BCBS’s Advantage Plan has withdrawn from the state, leaving Humana as the only Advantage Plan option. We are committed to ensuring access to services for our community.
- Athena’s coding partner, Resolution Coding has assisted with the backlog of claims in the queue. Our trial period with them is now concluded and we have contracted with them to continue this service at 90 day increments. Currently Athena is in the beta testing phase of their own service line, however I have opted to not get onboard until it is fully tested and functioning successfully. Once the Athena Coding service has proven effective I plan to make the transition, as this will be included as part of our Athena contract and not incur additional expense.
- We have reduced the total from 213 claims ready to code. Representing approximately \$423,729. To 128, representing approximately \$165,000. We now wait for processing and receipt of payments.
- WIPFLI conducted their on-site field audit in preparation of the Annual Cost Report. We expect a receivable from Medicare in the amount of \$177,497.

Central Supply: No Report

Clinics / Radiology: No Report

Dental: No Report

Dietary: No Report

Grants: CT Project: The M.J. Murdock Foundation has declined our request for grant funds. They did not offer any feedback in regards to their decision process. Although this is a setback, we will continue our fundraising efforts, seeking new options and examining our construction options.

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Emergency Preparedness: There will be a Mock Drill On December 2nd at 9am at the Philipsburg High School consisting of a functional exercise of a proposed flood as a result of a break in the Georgetown Lake Dam.

Environmental Services: No Report

Human Resources:

- We are looking to recruit a new dentist and hygienist and we plan to train one of our staff as a dental assistant to work with Dr Christensen.
- Continue to recruit three additional CNA's to fill our remaining open positions.

IT:

- Ongoing effort is directed towards:
Central Supply and Jumpstock
Workstation upgrades to phase out all the old GX620 machines.
Installing the new G6 system next week the Dental Clinic.
Network Upgrade with USAC funding.

Laboratory: We received our new microscope and urine chemistry analyzer from the every gracious H&R

Maintenance / Transportation: No Report

Marketing: No Report

Medical Staff: Med Staff Bylaws APPROVED. Please sign for Board approval

Nursing:

Policy Review COMPLETED

October Patient Census

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Intermediate Swing Bed (LTC) | = 19 |
| Swing Bed billable days | = 0 |
| Acute billable days | = 3 (1) |
| Observation Patients | = 3 |
| Deaths | = 0 |
| ER Visits | = 22 |
| Unusual events | = 0 |

Physical Therapy:

56 PT OP Were Seen In October

10 New Referrals:

Numbers are lower than usual as Peggy was on vacation for a week during the month.

Peggy shared that she was told by a patient that she heard that she was no longer at GCMC. Please dispel this rumor if you also hear of it.

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Also two new PT clinics have opened in Anaconda, as well as the fairly new PT Clinic that opened in Drummond so we are looking at marketing strategies to boost awareness and utilization.

Safety Report:

No new concerns or incidents reported in October

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Stoppler CEO/DON

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