



THE SMITH MAY 2018

Smith County Memorial Hospital Newsletter



This issue:

CEO Blog

New Services in PT

New Hire Announcement

Retirement Announcement

Career Opportunities

FAMILY PRACTICE ACCEPTS NEW STUDENT FOR TRAINING

If you've recently had an office visit at Smith County Family Practice, you may have been introduced to one of the rotating students from med school or PA school.

As the schedule allows, many of the doctors at SCMH participate in preceptorship programs with area schools as part of students' education in rural medicine. They are practicing their skills they've learned in school with the watchful eye of the accepting physician.

Since January, three medical students and one Physician Assistant student have completed rotations at Smith County Family Practice.

In May, Dr. Haack will act as the preceptor for Amber Rhow, a Physician Assistant student from University of Nebraska Medical Center. Amber will graduate in December. She is from Buffalo, NY and her husband is stationed in Offutt AirForce Base in Omaha. Please help us welcome Amber to our community!

SCMH HIRES NEW COMMUNICATIONS & DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Amy Doane to start June 1

Amy Doane has been hired as the new Director of Communications and Development for the Smith County Memorial Hospital.

“I am excited to continue the next season of my career in Smith Center,” Amy said. “The position allows me to live closer to family and opens up new opportunities for community involvement.”

Amy has spent the last two years in Hillsboro, Kan., at Tabor College as the Director of Communications and Marketing. In this role, she oversaw all external communications and marketing from admissions, advancement, alumni, academics and the president’s office.

The administration at SCMh welcomes Amy to the team.

“We’re looking forward to having Amy on board,” said Allen Van Driel, CEO of the hospital. “There are already numerous things to take care of as we prepare to move into our new building in August. Amy seems to have the background and experience to handle the job.”

Amy grew up on a family farm in Downs, Kan., and graduated from Sterling College with a bachelor’s degree in advocacy and political communication. Following graduation, Amy worked in the Washington, D.C., area for a variety of non-profit trade and membership associations. During her career, Amy has worked primarily with agriculture and education focused organizations including The Fertilizer Institute, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), ASCD, and USA Rice.



Above: Amy Doane, hired as new Communications & Development Director for SCMh will begin June 1.

As part of her personal goals, Amy enjoys being part of the communities she has lived in. “Coming from a small community, it was important for me to get involved in my own backyard,” Amy said.

During her time in Hillsboro, Amy served on the Convention and Visitors Bureau and Chamber of Commerce board and was chair of the Marion County Community Economic Development Corporation.

While living in Virginia, Amy served on the Arlington County Fair Board of Directors for six years and was chair of the board for two years. The volunteer board plans and oversees the annual event that entertains and educates more than 70,000 attendees over five days each summer.

Amy starts her new position on June 1.

NEW MARKETS TAX CREDITS

How will we use the funds?

By Allen VanDriel, CEO

Last month I wrote about the additional funding we were able to receive for our building project using a mechanism called New Markets Tax Credits. The mechanism and cash flow for this is extremely complex, but the end result is approximately \$2.5 million in additional funding over and above our original budget. When I say that we achieved an additional funding stream for the project, the first question that starts to surface is “Does that mean the project is over budget?” Following that question, the next one is usually “Does that mean you didn’t plan well enough for the cost of the project?” The simple answer to both question is, no.

As I’ve written previously, our contract with the general contractor for the project (Hutton Construction) is structured as a “Construction Management at Risk” model. This means that the contractor issued to the Board of Trustees a total price for construction of the building itself. That price (\$21.3 million) did not include the cost of land acquisition, utilities, architect fees, interest incurred on bond funds during construction, and fixtures, furniture, and equipment that we (the “owner”) are purchasing. All the way through construction, we have been tracking carefully what the expenditures have been, including the cost of change orders that have been written into the project. We are very pleased that it currently appears that the project cost will end up several hundred-thousand dollars below the Guaranteed Maximum Price. Coupled with a projected finish date that is almost two months earlier than originally projected, all in all, the project is going very well.



**ADDITIONAL
FUNDING ALLOWS
US TO PURCHASE
MUCH NEEDED
EQUIPMENT**

Hospital Main Entrance



NEW MARKETS TAX CREDIT-CONTINUED

So what do we need the additional funding for? Simply put, we will use the New Markets Tax Credits funds for a number of additions to the project and additional equipment that we did not include originally. Two examples have to do with the building.

At the time the building design was finalized, the federal government was developing new standards related to the mixture and handling of medications. While medications can be very beneficial to patients, some of them are hazardous when mixed. An example is medications used for chemotherapy. Because the revised regulations governing handling of these medications hadn't been released yet (they actually are still only in draft form), the design of the pharmacy in the new building couldn't accommodate them. As we learned more about what the requirements will be, we made the decision to redesign the space for the pharmacy and to include two different hoods for compounding of medications. Having access to the New Markets Tax Credits funds meant that we could make this change without driving the cost of the project over budget.

Similarly, the original design for the building did not include emergency generator power for the Rural Health Clinic. While the clinic is not required to have a source of emergency power, our increasing reliance on an electronic medical record makes it nearly impossible to operate the clinic without electrical power. So we asked that additional emergency electrical circuits to the clinic from the emergency switch gear in the hospital be added to the project. Funding for the change will come from the New Markets Tax Credits funds.

From the beginning of the plans for the new facility, we intended to have an entrance from Highway 36. During construction, the Smith County Road and Bridge staff constructed an access road connecting to the project site from East Kansas Street. That access road is a very nice rock road. We did not include paving that access in the building plans because of the cost. With the success of the New Markets Tax Credits project, we now are able to plan for paving of the access road (it actually will become a city street), as well as an additional parking lot on the south side of the hospital that was originally going to be a rock surface.

All \$2.5 million from New Markets Tax Credits proceeds are not all finally committed yet. As recently as last week, the Board of Trustees continued discussion about which project additions will receive priority. All of the additions, though, will enhance the quality of the finished project. And remember, they are funds that do not have to be repaid. We will convert the construction funding for the major part of the project, which was provided by the Revenue Anticipation Bonds issued by the Public Building Commission, to a long term, low interest loan from the USDA Rural Development Program. The New Markets Tax Credits are outside of both of those funding sources and do not have to be repaid. Throughout the planning and construction phases of the new facility, the Board of Trustees have been very diligent in controlling costs and using the best resources to pay for the project. New Markets Tax Credits are just another example of their efforts.

LONG STANDING NURSE TO RETIRE FROM SCMH

LINDA HOMMON CELEBRATES OVER 40 YEARS OF SERVICE



Registered nurse, Linda Hommon, has announced her retirement from Smith County Memorial Hospital.

Linda's tenure started as a LPN at the Long Term Care in 1972. She continued her education to achieve her Registered Nursing degree in 1989. She then returned to SCMH as a surgery staff RN. She was promoted to Surgery Supervisor, then became the Director of Nursing Services and held that position for roughly 10 years. During that time, Linda assumed many roles including Discharge Planner and Certified Chemotherapy Nurse. She then decided to step down from the DON role and has been working as the Discharge Planner among other roles since.



Linda's plan for retirement includes brushing up on a few hobbies including gardening and quilting. However, her love for care-giving will be satisfied by babysitting grandkids and spending more time with her father and mother-in-law.

Linda cherishes time with family including her seven grandchildren: Natasha (18), Trenton (16), Clara (16), Elsia (14), Emmy (4), Ezra (4) and Silas (6 mo.).

"Linda's knowledge and experience is invaluable. Her commitment to patients of SCMH is apparent in all she does and will be greatly missed."

Sarah Ragsdale, RN
Director of Nursing Services

NEW SERVICE IN PHYSICAL THERAPY

Services by Taylor Kuhlmann, DPT

Do you have chronic joint pain, limited range of motion, limited strength, or difficulties with daily activities like bending over to pick up your child or grandchild? Consider an alternative form of pain relief called Functional Dry Needling.

Taylor Kuhlmann, DPT, a Physical Therapist at Smith County Memorial Hospital has recently been trained in Functional Dry Needling. This technique involves inserting a tiny needle in a muscle in order to release shortened bands of muscles and decrease trigger point activity. This technique is part of a comprehensive physical therapy plan of care. Functional Dry Needling has been shown to reduce pain, restore range-of-motion, and improve function. It may expedite the rehabilitation process and allow you to achieve your goals in much less time.



Above: Taylor Kuhlmann, DPT, one of SCMH's Physical Therapists

Contact the Physical Therapy department or talk to your doctor for further information regarding Functional Dry Needling to see if this therapy is right for you.

SCHOOL PHYSICALS

It's that time of year again to think about school activities physicals.

Smith County Family Practice will offer school physicals at a reduced cost for Smith Center Jr./Sr. High School and Thunder Ridge Schools. On these days only, the reduced cost is \$10 per child.
Thunder Ridge: Monday, May 7
Smith Center: Tuesday, May 22
Make Up Day: Monday, June 25

If you would like to schedule a time for your child to have their school physical done during one of these clinic days, please contact your school for an appointment and receive the necessary paperwork to be completed prior to your child's physical. Students that wish to make appointments for physicals outside of the assigned dates will be charged the standard office visit fee.

For Smith Center students: To schedule an appointment, please call Tami Frank at the (785) 282-6609. Appointment sign-ups are due by the end of the school day Thursday, May 17.

For Thunder Ridge students: To schedule an appointment, please call Staci Foreman at the (785) 476-2217. Appointment sign-ups are due by the end of the school day Thursday, May 3.



SMITH COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

SPECIALTY CLINIC



MAY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Urology Dr. Evangelidis	4 Wound Care	5
6	7 Surgery Dr. Teget OB/GYN Dr. Pankratz	8 Cardiology Dr. Azzam	9 Cardiology Dr. Efstratiou	10 Surgery Dr. Banker Pulmonology Dr. Stritt	11 Wound Care	12
13	14 Surgery Dr. Teget	15	16 Cardiology Dr. Yerra	17	18 Wound Care	19
20	21 Surgery Dr. Teget OB/GYN Dr. Pankratz	22 Cardiology Dr. Efstratiou	23 Orthopedics Dr. Adamson	24 Surgery Dr. Banker Pulmonology Dr. Stritt	25 Wound Care	26
27	28	29	30	31 Nephrology Dr. Ray		

**Above: A
view of main
entrance of
the hospital
from inside
the building,
still under
construction.**

JOB OPPORTUNITIES



To access an application, visit our careers page at SCMHKS.org/careers or contact Human Resources for more details about the positions listed below at (785) 282-6845.

LABORATORY SCIENCE POSITION

Smith County Memorial Hospital has an opportunity for a laboratory scientist to support our growing patient population in Smith Center, Kansas. The successful candidate for this position will have an Associate's or Bachelor's degree in a science field (chemistry, biology, etc.). Certification as a Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) or Medical Technologist (MT) is preferred, but not required. SCMH will assist a qualified candidate to achieve certification upon employment. The laboratory scientist will obtain specimens and perform analyses in blood and fluid chemistry, hematology, coagulation studies, urinalysis, and other tests used for the diagnosis of medical conditions. After-hours call is required in rotation with other laboratory staff. Excellent salary and benefits package.

HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT POSITION

The Health Information Management Department is currently seeking a full-time employee. This position requires gathering patient information, adherence to HIPAA guidelines, data entry, scanning of medical documents and positive public interaction. The applicant must possess computer proficiency, attention-to-detail and accuracy, time management, self-motivation, effective communication skills, multitasking, ability to work under pressure, and a team attitude.

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT – TECHNICIAN

The Maintenance Department is seeking a full-time employee for general building and grounds maintenance. A qualified individual will have experience and/or education in building trades. Essential job functions include: servicing building utilities, light-duty electrical maintenance, general plumbing repairs, completing small-scale construction projects, snow removal, landscaping & groundskeeping and day-to-day problem solving. Rotation of weekend and holidays with on-call commute time under 30 minutes required.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – SKILLED CUSTODIAN

The Environmental Services Department is accepting applications for a full-time skilled custodian. This position will be responsible for all aspects of housekeeping services in the hospital and clinic. Various hours/shifts and benefits package available. On-call rotation required. Knowledge of disinfection and infection prevention process is preferred, however, training will be provided.